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# THE AMERICAN Legion

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For God and Country

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## Time to go

I appreciated Alan W. Dowd's article "Worlds Apart" (August). The United Nations is a deception to rob us of our freedoms. It now seeks a world tax, a standing military force and an international court. We should withdraw, serve eviction notice on the remaining nations and turn the headquarters into a replacement for the World Trade Center.

— Orin F. Schwanke, Leonard, Mo.



## Too different

The title "Worlds Apart" is quite fitting for the article it heads. It does not describe, however, the true difference between the U.S. doctrine on human rights and that of the United Nations. Our tenet is that our rights come from God, as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence. Under the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is made perfectly clear that our rights come from – and may be modified or taken away by – the United Nations.

In reality, our worlds are light years apart. For God and country, get the U.S. out of the U.N. and the U.N. out of the U.S.

— Ed Ahrens, Tucson, Ariz.

## Waiting to pounce

In Korea, I had nothing but respect for those valiant soldiers from other U.N. countries. On the other hand, we must be honest. It is the United States that carried the biggest load, sacrificing the most in lives and military expenditure. This disparity with virtually everything remains 50 years later.

Given the opportunity, the host of smaller, less affluent countries will bring the United States down and divide it among themselves through every political means at their disposal. If America does not soon comprehend the danger this situation poses, Islamic terrorists may not be our largest problem.

— Wayne G. Skaggs, Wimberley, Texas

## Ignorant America

Thank you a thousand times for Alan W. Dowd's article "Worlds Apart." For some reason known but to God, the United States continues to foot a sizable portion of the cost of running the United Nations while it slaps us and we say thanks. Sometimes we Americans are truly fat, dumb and happy.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission now includes China, Cuba, Indonesia, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Syria. It's also my understanding that it joins 57 nations of the Islamic Conference in legitimizing suicide bombers. I honestly don't see why we don't get out of the United Nations altogether.

— Bruce Hardee, Birmingham, Ala.

## Misspent dollars

Ronald D. Utt's article "Tax Me Out to the Ballgame" (August) was right over the plate. It's wrong to subsidize wealthy athletes and team owners with tax revenue that should go to schools, teachers and law enforcement. The county where I live recently dedicated hundreds of millions of tax dollars to replace a sports arena that is only 10 years old. Meanwhile, the schools and jails are in disrepair, and the teachers and police are underpaid. We called the county commissioners "out" during the primary elections.

Federal legislation should be

considered to restrict using tax revenue to support any pro sports team. This would prevent owners from moving teams across state lines to grab tax revenue. I once loved to watch professional baseball, football, hockey and basketball, but I can no longer support these subsidized millionaires. We need to get our priorities in order.

— Dave Nelson, Germantown, Tenn.

## All about money

The fat-cat owners of teams tell the public about the advantages of new stadiums. Pure propaganda. A few years ago, the city of Phoenix voted not to use taxpayer dollars to build a new baseball stadium. They went ahead and did it anyway. Now they want to build a new football stadium. A developer offered them land for free. The offer was turned down because someone wasn't going to make enough money. In the meantime, they had to up the sales tax because the city was going into the red.

— W.A. Robinson, Seligman, Ariz.

## Politics for all

In "The Nobel Soapbox" (August), Ernest W. Lefever attempts to discredit scientists' right to comment on the ethics of foreign policy and the decisions of our political leaders. He seems to suggest that all of us who have not studied political science at a university should leave political analysis up to those who did. Contrary to what he would like us to believe, Lefever takes an elitist stance, one that is typical of the intellectual aloofness of so-called think-tank specialists.

Politics reflect the imperatives of people, and we scientists have as much right and reason to express our views in the political forum. To coin a phrase, politics is not rocket science. It is, rather, a process that we have the right to participate in whatever degrees we might hold. If political scientists like Lefever are so good at political analysis, pray tell, where were they in predicting the events of Sept. 11? They are nothing but a colossal fraud.

— Prentiss de Jesus, Arlington, Va.

## WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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## Good coverage

The past two issues of *The American Legion Magazine* have been especially good. The articles, particularly "Worlds Apart," "The Nobel Soapbox" and "A Press for Diversity" provide information and opinion you would never find in the mainstream press. I see letters to the editor complaining of the magazine's conservative bent. As far as I'm concerned, it's just right. If I wanted "center left" coverage, I'd subscribe to one of the dozens of other publications available that present a much more "progressive" viewpoint.

— Gary Wardle, Louisville, Ky.

## No alternatives

I am dismayed and disappointed that the Legion wasted three pages on Roger Bruns' article "What Might Have Been" (August). It is impossible to know what might or might not have happened if this or that had or had not happened. Such speculation is a waste of time. History offers no alternatives.

— David T. Saunders, Clackamas, Ore.

## Senior moment?

The article about alternate history was intriguing. I had heard about the "provisional" memo that Dwight D. Eisenhower had drafted in the event that the Normandy invasion failed but had never seen the text. Fascinating. Although your caption states that he prepared the statement June 5, the handwritten date is clearly July 5. Had he lost track of time or was it an early "senior moment"?

— Dick Boera, Lyndonville, Vt.

**Editor's note** — In his book *"Almost History,"* Roger Bruns writes that the "rush of the moment" caused Eisenhower to mistakenly scribble July rather than June on the bottom of the note.

## Veterans not valued

As I read the article about William Pitsenbarger ("A Hero for All America," August), I was in awe of his accomplishments and bravery. His family must be proud. The problem I have is that the Medal of Honor was presented to

his parents by someone other than the president. This medal is the highest honor that can be awarded to our military men and women. Should it not be presented by the highest official in our country, the commander in chief?

— Ronald D. Shaw, Beloit, Wis.

## Quality care

Thank you for the article "Loyal to VHA" (August). Three cheers for Dr. Omega Silva and her tribute to VA hospitals. My sister was a Navy hospital corpsman in World War II when she contracted rheumatic fever, which resulted in a damaged mitral valve. Her condition required many stays in the New Orleans VA hospital that included heart surgery. Over a period of 50 years, she received excellent care that enabled her to live to age 73. VA hospitals top my list of government organizations that fulfill their mission.

— M. Lurline Jolly, Albuquerque, N.M.

## Unwelcome intruder

As an Air Force veteran of the Korean era who has received VA medical care for the past 11 years, I absolutely cannot relate to the VA that Dr. Omega Silva describes.

I just returned from the local VA medical facility. During my visit, service was slow. My son commented that most providers made you feel you were an unwelcome intruder ruining their vacation.

If you show up unannounced, even if you were told to return, you are made to cool your heels. Calling for an appointment is no solution. My last try took from June 21 to July 16 for a July 30 appointment. So much for urgency. Dr. Silva calls this medical care "second to none."

— C.D. Clark, Morganfield, Ky.

## Idle conjecture

I was astonished to read Alan Dershowitz's article "When All Else Fails ... Why Not Torture?" in the July issue. It is clear he has little knowledge or practical experience in intelligence collection. Torture only prompts an adversary to do the same and to kick it up a notch when they

have Americans in their hands. Can torture produce "sometimes truthful information," which he suggests is derivative from Israeli experience? Sure, like shooting into a flock of starlings with a .22-caliber rifle might eventually produce a kill.

If Dershowitz had an inquiring mind, the American Society of International Law has much published research that could be of use to him to understand the folly of such practices. But knowledgeable he is not in interrogation, intelligence collection or applicable law — a rather strange void for a Harvard law professor in 2002.

— David A. Ellis, Fredericksburg, Va.

## Propaganda coup

Neither being a law professor at Harvard nor an editor at *The American Legion Magazine* is proof against being just plain nuts, as Alan Dershowitz has proven with his article arguing for the legalization of torture. Neither seems to understand, much less care, that the article has given America's enemies a great propaganda coup. America, it will be said — seemingly the conscience of the world and with the support of a noted veterans organization — is proposing to do exactly what it purports to condemn elsewhere. That the article appeared as a commentary will be of no importance, especially since a cautionary note from the editor did not precede it.

The Legion needs a commentary stating its opposition to torture and to apologize to readers who might believe the reverse because of Dershowitz's article, or it risks being seen as in league with torturers worldwide.

— Thomas W. Daly, North Mankato, Minn.

## One-sided views

*The American Legion Magazine* should tell John C. Eastman to spout his one-sided views through the Republican National Committee ("The GAO's Assault on the Executive Branch," July). The GAO has a purpose for the American people. The government does not belong to Dick Cheney.

— Donald Gulso, Minneapolis



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# Mandatory vote on judicial picks

## SUPPORT

**Sen. Don Nickles**  
R-Okla.



President George W. Bush's judicial nominees deserve votes in the U.S. Senate but are being blocked by Democrats who want judges who match their liberal ideologies.

Judicial vacancies are higher than they've been in years, but only 52 percent of the president's nominees have so far

been confirmed. Former Presidents Clinton, Bush and Reagan saw more than 90 percent of their judges confirmed before their third years in office.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., recently admitted ideology was a factor. "I don't feel it's appropriate for me to vote on a judge unless I have some idea of how he or she is going to vote," he said. His questions to nominees would include: "What are

*"Our founding fathers wanted judges to apply the law, not make law."*

your views of the Second Amendment? Do you believe that it pertains just to militias or to the average person?"

Such litmus tests could mean more liberal

judges like those who found the Pledge of Allegiance phrase "under God" unconstitutional.

Our founding fathers wanted judges to apply the law, not make law. They wanted wise citizens free from such ideological tests to protect our rights and liberty. Two such men are Miguel Estrada and John Roberts, both nominees for the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Estrada arrived in this country as a teen-ager who spoke little English but had a passion for the American dream. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia College and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. He clerked for Justice Anthony Kennedy, served as assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States and has argued 15 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Roberts graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he served as managing editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He clerked for Justice William Rehnquist, served as Principal Deputy Solicitor General of the United States and has argued 37 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

These are only two examples of the highly qualified nominees now held up in the Senate. It's time to lift the blockade and give these fine men and women a vote.

**Sen. Patrick Leahy**  
D-Vt.

## OPPOSE



The surge of judicial vacancies Democrats inherited from the Republican Senate majority last summer – reaching 110 – is being remedied. In the first 10 months since the Senate changeover, under Democratic leadership, we have confirmed nearly 60 of President Bush's judicial nominees and have set

a far better pace than Republicans set for President Clinton's choices, which averaged 38 per year. We have opened the process to public scrutiny. Controversial nominations take longer, and the president can help by choosing more nominees primarily for their ability instead of for their rigid ideologies.

Because of the special nature of Supreme Court nominations, I have supported the Judiciary Committee sending those nomi-

nations to the full Senate, regardless of the vote in committee. Some Republicans, however, have recently begun to argue that lower court nominations also should be sent to the Senate floor, regardless of the committee's hearings and work and votes. I would remind them that more than 50 of President Clinton's nominees never received votes from the Judiciary Committee, and the Republican-led Judiciary Committee made those decisions, not the full Senate.

The Judiciary Committee, before a vote is cast, must review thousands of pages of the record to determine if each nominee meets the high ethical and professional standards for a lifetime job as a federal judge. The Senate should continue to give a decisive role to members who have done the work to thoroughly evaluate these nominations.

Under Democratic leadership, the Senate has greatly improved the pace in the handling of judicial nominees. More of President Bush's judges have been confirmed in just the first 10 months of Democratic leadership than were confirmed during all 12 months of 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2000.

With cooperation from the White House, we can protect one of America's crown jewels, a truly independent federal judiciary that upholds the freedoms for which so many have given their lives to defend.

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*Those who have sacrificed a lifetime to the service and protection of our country should not be punished for choosing a career in the military rather than as a government bureaucrat.*

# Disabled veterans deserve fairness

BY SEN. BOB SMITH, R-N.H.

I came to Washington with a strong belief that America's best days were still ahead. My desire was to improve the quality of life for everyone. As a Vietnam veteran, many of my ideas centered on improving the health and welfare of those who served in our armed forces.

Many issues facing our veterans required attention. Improving health care and providing long-term coverage to an aging community of veterans were in critical demand. In 1999, after years of work, we passed sweeping health-care legislation with the Millennium Health Care Act to begin to meet that need. Although we won that battle, the war continues.

Nearly 17 years ago, Rep. Mike Bilirakis, R-Fla., introduced concurrent-receipt legislation to rectify the unfair law that requires military retirees to waive their retirement pay in order to receive disability compensation from VA.

Military retirees are the only federal employees prohibited from receiving both retirement pay and VA disability pay concurrently without penalty. Those who have sacrificed a lifetime to the service and protection of our country should not be punished for choosing a career in the military rather than as a government bureaucrat.

The tide began to change this year. After years of working with both Rep. Bilirakis and Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., it looked as if we would end the discrimination against retired disabled veterans.

However, defeat was snatched out of the jaws of victory. The House Budget Committee worked up a compromise that only would be available to those with disabilities of 60 percent or greater, but provides nothing for those who are 59-percent disabled or less. The program would have been phased in over five years. That only would cover approximately 80,000 veterans while leaving an estimated 450,000 to

600,000 veterans behind. No veteran should ever be left behind.

We owe our freedom and our way of life to these men and women who served with honor and who sacrificed for our freedoms. I find it hard to believe that some would say our veterans who are less than 60-percent disabled are not deserving. This is not a question of funding but of priorities. I believe our priorities should be with the veterans.

I offered an amendment in the Senate Armed Services Committee that would override the House compromise. The amendment would allow all retired veterans, not just those 60-percent disabled or more, to receive both full disability and retirement pay immediately. Veterans also will not have to wait another five years to get the benefits they deserve and they have earned.

We had overwhelming support on the committee vote, with only one senator opposing the motion. The full Senate later voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

Veterans should not have to pay for their disability compensation out of their retirement income. We should provide for fair and equitable treatment of our veterans – all veterans, not just a select few.

The battle is not over, my fellow veterans. We must remain diligent as we work out the differences between the House and Senate bills.

It's been 110 years since this unfair "concurrent-receipt" law was enacted. Let's stop this discrimination of our veterans. Let's do the right thing today. □

*U.S. Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., a Vietnam War veteran, is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Last March, he co-authored an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill of 2003 that would allow immediate implementation of concurrent receipt of disability and retirement pay for military retirees.*



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# The Accounting Apocalypse

*Big business and big accounting face a tough challenge: Rebuild integrity and win back investors. But how?*

BY DOMINICK PERUSO  
AND PATRICIA WEAVER

The audit of a company's accounting records protects investors from corporate greed. A breakdown in the audit system triggers financial disasters like Enron that weaken our economy. Investors grow edgy. The stock market sags and jobs disappear. The fall of Enron caused many to look hard at accounting practices. What they saw shocked the financial world and cast an accusing light on Enron's auditors, Arthur Andersen. What can be done to restore trust in the accounting numbers and in our stock markets that rely upon them?

Companies that sell their stock to the public must have their accounting records audited every year by CPAs, like those at Arthur Andersen. An audit is done to verify the fairness of the accounting records. Companies need to be

audited because the temptation for them to cheat is great. Companies who fake their accounting records trick the public about their true worth. Occasionally companies seek advantage by making themselves look bad to avoid taxes. Usually, though, companies try to make themselves look good by reporting lots of profits. A company that looks good can increase its stock price.

An increasing stock price delights investors, since buying at a low price and selling at a high one is how investors make money. A healthy stock price means the company can get loans easily. Top managers also want the stock price to rise because hefty portions of their salaries and bonuses are based on it. So, falsifying accounting numbers is a high-stakes game with clear rewards.

**Cooking the Books.** Companies can use many methods to tinker with accounting numbers. Some of the most popular ways to "cook the books" include smoothing, materially misusing and exaggerating estimates.

"Smoothing" occurs when

management alters the books so profits appear to increase each year. Smoothing is common. Microsoft recently promised to stop smoothing after being charged by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the federal agency that polices publicly traded companies. Since Enron, worried investors doubted even General Electric, the darling of Wall Street for years. From 1995 to 2000, GE profits grew steadily and, some say, too smoothly. While no one accused

*Sometimes people are surprised to learn that accounting includes many estimates, so many that modern accounting is more about the art of estimation than it is about counting things.*

*With so many estimates to make, a deceptive company has many chances to distort its numbers.*

GE of illegality, we would normally expect profits to grow unevenly. "Materiality" relates to the size of accounting errors. The idea says that if a mistake is small and unintentional, it does not matter. The notion makes sense. No one would expect auditors to catch one tiny mistake in thousands of business dealings. Instead, the





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CORPORATE  
STEW**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

auditor certifies that the accounting is fair overall. The dishonest company will intentionally pile up a series of errors, all the while claiming that each mistake is small. Eventually it will achieve the large fictitious total that it wants. The auditor must object to such behavior. When management is deceitful, even small errors cannot be excused.

Sometimes people are surprised to learn that accounting includes many estimates, so many that modern accounting is more about the art of estimation than it is about counting things. With so many estimates to make, a deceptive company has many chances to distort its numbers.

Accountants know these tricks and watch for them in audits. When auditors use poor judgment, they become accomplices. If they look away when management plays fast and loose with materiality, they fail as watchdogs. If they let themselves be convinced that an estimate is reasonable when it is not, they ratify the lie.

**What Went Wrong.** By tradition, public accountants have been professional skeptics. They performed audits with the public interest in mind. Some years ago, an auditor with the CPA firm Price Waterhouse properly disagreed with the managers of IBM. The company wanted to call inventory that had been shipped to warehouses, but not sold, sales. The auditor criticized the practice in a sharp memo to IBM, which listened and adopted a more conservative method. Ah, the good old days. What happened to change them?

To generate profits of their own, accounting firms began bidding against one another for business. In such a price war, audit work became a low-profit service. To make money, accountants offered consulting services to the businesses they audited. They helped with in-house accounting,

*We live in a world of global conglomerates, offshore tax havens, stock derivatives and technological upheaval. Accounting too has gotten complicated. Companies seek more clever ways to enhance their stock prices. New accounting rules keep coming – but not quickly enough to stay ahead of inventive companies, and they are more complex than ever.*

setting up computer systems, buying and selling assets, and expansion. The audit became a loss leader to get a foot in the door. One accounting firm even offered a \$1 audit to new clients in the hope of generating huge consulting fees.

While the accounting profession defended its practice of accepting consulting fees from audit clients, it grew dependent upon those fees. *Business Week* reported that in 1993 only 31 percent of fees to large accounting firms came from consulting. By 1999, that percentage swelled to 51. More than half of Andersen's fees from Enron were from consulting, some of them for creating the notorious Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) that Enron found so useful.

We live in a world of global conglomerates, offshore tax havens, stock derivatives and technological upheaval. Accounting too has gotten complicated. Companies seek more clever ways to enhance their stock prices. New accounting rules keep coming – but not quickly enough to stay ahead of inventive companies, and they are more complex than ever.

Some companies rely on this complexity to cloak the truth. For example, the SPEs at the heart of Enron's trickery hid trading in assets and debt from appearing in the financial records. Enron used

SPEs to tiptoe along the edge of legality while keeping the public in the dark.

The failure of Enron set off accusations that the company bought favor in high places. Certainly the company was generous. But the money Enron spread around Washington pales when compared to the beefy sums the accounting industry flashed around town. Federal Election Commission data available from the Center for Responsive Politics at [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org) reveal the bounty that Andersen and Enron showered on key members of Congress. From 1989 through mid-2001, Enron spent \$630,000

while Andersen contributed more than twice that – nearly \$1.5 million.

Andersen was only one of the national audit firms. The data also show that the audit firms along with the American Institute of CPAs, the national trade organization, spent nearly \$41 million on lobbying from 1997 through the first half of 2001. Andersen was the biggest lobbyist of the audit firms, outspending the next closest firm nearly 2 to 1. Andersen splurged for nearly \$10 million while the American Institute of CPAs paid out \$11.7 million. Not surprisingly, accountants have been successful in getting what they want from government.

What did all that money buy?

It bought self-regulation, rather than government regulation, of the accounting profession. It convinced government to overlook the apparent conflict of interest of letting audit firms provide consulting services to audit clients.

Self-regulation for accountants has not worked, and those who called for government intervention have gone unheard. A Public Oversight Board was supposed to watch auditors and keep them independent from the companies they audit. But CPA firms funded the board. It had virtually no power to investigate or punish, instead relying on the goodwill



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of the firms. Since the audit firms were so hellbent on cashing in on consulting, the board never had a chance.

Peer review, a key feature of self-regulation, also failed. Peer review requires that one audit firm evaluate another at regular intervals. In effect, peer review is an audit of the auditor. Recall that Enron declared bankruptcy early in December 2001. Yet in January 2002, the accounting firm that reviewed Andersen gave them top marks. Big accounting firms are rarely disciplined by their peers.

Andersen refused to change the way it did business even after a string of stunning audit failures including the Baptist Foundation of Arizona (the largest nonprofit bankruptcy), Enron and WorldCom (the largest accounting fraud and largest bankruptcy). Business commentator Larry Kudlow noted that "not once did the accounting firm ever acknowledge wrongdoing, nor fire guilty executives, nor internally reform its operating practices." Naturally, whistleblowers at Andersen were ignored and often criticized. In the end, the culture at Andersen rewarded greed and feared truth.

During an audit, accountants visit the company they are examining, often for weeks at a time. Management of the company has time to evaluate personnel from the accounting firm as potential employees. They get a close look without the added costs of advertising and interviewing. The company can reap added savings on training since the former auditor, now a company employee, knows how the company works.

When auditors leave the audit firm to work for a company they used to audit, odd situations can arise. In future audits, those who stayed with the audit firm can end up inspecting the books of their old colleagues and – sometimes – even their former bosses. For example, Andersen audited Waste Management for more than 30 years. During all but the past three years, every top financial and ac-

*When Enron fell, politicians, investors and business leaders alike called for reforms. But they may not be able or willing to fix the problems for good.*

counting officer at Waste Management had earlier worked at Andersen. Chumminess between the watchdog accountant and company management erodes the skepticism required of an auditor.

**Who Can Fix It?** The accounting profession seems unlikely and unwilling to save itself. A profession that traded so cavalierly on its reputation, that embraced temptation so casually and that peddled influence so widely could probably not command the moral ground to be taken seriously. When Enron fell, politicians, investors and business leaders alike called for reforms. But they may not be able or willing to fix the problems for good.

One early scheme came from Harvey Pitt, chairman of the SEC – also a former lobbyist for the accounting profession. He called for a committee to oversee and discipline auditors. Many criticized his solution as halfhearted. The accounting industry's Public Oversight Board, already charged with the same duties, resigned en masse after Pitt's announcement. *The New York Times* reported that the chair of the board called Pitt's proposal "a sham intended to give the industry more power to discipline itself rather than submit to outside scrutiny."

Criticism of Pitt has grown. An editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* called for his resignation. By early summer, articles appeared in the business press with titles such as "Do We Buy or Sell This SEC Boss?" and "Still Hoping for More from Harvey Pitt."

Over the past decade, many condemned the cozy relationship of auditors with those they audit. Those most upset by Enron called for an end to this conflict of in-

terest. In a turnabout rare to the profession, the American Institute of CPAs said it will not oppose federal legislation limiting audit firms from providing consulting services. Some found irony in the hair-splitting phrasing that the institute used. Rather than agreeing to a ban, the insti-

tute commits only to "not oppose" the efforts of others.

Changing auditors every few years also has been suggested as a way to bring fresh eyes to a company's finances. TIAA-CREF, a giant pension and mutual-fund family, regularly changes auditors. Opponents say changing auditors is too costly. A new auditor would need too much time to learn about the company, they argue. The fervor that propelled this solution in the early days of Enron has faded.

Since the WorldCom fraud, change seems likely.

Loud calls for change echo through the financial press and the stock markets. Both Pitt and the president call for corporate and accounting reform. Congress holds hearings.

Spurred by WorldCom and a seemingly endless string of corporate scandals, Congress passed the Corporate Reform Act. The act limits the consulting that auditors can do and provides for independent regulation of auditors. Yet worries persist that the accounting lobby and others will delay and cripple any new law.

Change takes time. Congress will move on to new outrages. If the nation loses focus, special interests can stifle reform. For real change to happen, we must scour the details, watching closely for the devil who might lurk within. □

*Dominick Peruso is a CPA and assistant professor of accounting at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa. Patricia Weaver, also a CPA, is a professor at Juniata College. She teaches accounting and finance.*

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# HOW TO BUILD Your Nest Egg

*Despite the market's peaks and valleys, people who stick to sound, long-term investment plans inevitably come out ahead.*

BY LOU DOBBS

**E**nron. Dot-bombs. The recession that wasn't a recession – or was it? In recent years, we've dealt with a dizzying myriad of business developments that have spooked investors, especially those who perceive anything less than double-digit growth in their nest eggs as failure. Get used to it. Single-digit growth may indeed be an admirable accomplishment for now.

When NASDAQ rose 85 percent in 1999, people thought that getting a 30-percent return was a bad year. Well, we all know what a bad year is now, don't we? In a "slow-growth" climate, getting 7-percent to 10-percent return will be outstanding.

Whether in boom times or dog days, those who stick to sound, well-planned financial blueprints inevitably come out ahead. And if economic times ever swing back into anything resembling 1990s-style

prosperity, investors should keep some cautionary lessons gleaned from the early 21st century foremost in their minds.

**Enron:** *Diversification is critical, as is spotting the trouble signs.* It's easy to judge the good employees and faithful investors who lost millions with the fall of Enron. But remember how seductively tempting this stock was before February 2001, when Enron seemed as solid as any stodgy blue chip with a sense of sex appeal? Its business model was praised as innovative, not scandal-sheet fodder. Enron was trading at \$83 in early 2001. A year and a half later, it literally wasn't even worth two bits. This reminds us that shareholders and employees need to take command of their own investing with a diversified group of compa-





*Shareholders  
and employees  
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a diversified group  
of companies and  
stay on top of  
developments  
that affect  
their worth.*

nies and stay on top of developments that affect their worth. This takes more effort, but the average investor can do it.

In the case of Enron, all kinds of trouble signs arose. CEO Jeffrey Skilling announced his resignation from his self-described “dream job” just six months after taking it for vaguely described “personal reasons.” Then Enron’s accountants made some gross assumptions about future revenue sources.

If a company is betting that a significant chunk of future revenues will come from a 10-percent gain on pension-fund investments, buyer beware. In the post-1990s boom, most investors were lucky not to lose significant amounts of invested equity, much less bank on a 10-percent return. Even in “normal” times, one should not assume anything more than an 8-percent return, or less.

One of the silliest developments of corporate accounting to come along has been the inclusion of earnings on gains in the pension fund. Think about it. The pension fund is run by the company purely to benefit its employees, not the stockholders. This method of accounting needs to end.

Investors also need to keep track of the company’s cash flow. It needs to grow as fast, or faster, than the revenue. With Enron, what good were the immense revenue streams without cash flowing back into the company? Cash flow from operations is considerably less suspect to stealth accounting methods and is an honest way of looking at a company’s financial health and stability. Keeping your eye on this bottom-line item will ensure you’re on top of the companies who have your money.

**The Bursting of the Tech Bubble:** *Don’t get swept by the hype.* The fall of the dot-coms, followed by the collapse of telecoms and other tech sectors, shouldn’t have seriously harmed anyone who maintained a diversified portfolio. By “diverse” I don’t mean investing

*Cash flow from operations  
is considerably less suspect  
to stealth accounting methods ...  
Keeping your eye on this  
bottom-line item will ensure  
that you’re on top of the companies  
who have your money.*

in 10 dot-coms and five telecoms, even 10 small-cap, large-growth mutual funds.

Still, as with a single stock like Enron, it was difficult to resist the temptation to strike it big in very short time, getting caught up in the madness of the moment by essentially betting on one horse.

Now the lessons are clear. Some \$700 billion in company valuations was lost in the demise of the dot-coms. And that was nothing compared to the burst of the broader tech bubble, with \$1.5 trillion lost on telecom alone. It was an unmitigated disaster. But again, the trouble signs were out there for anyone to see. Stock prices were soaring for companies that had no projected earnings – or even prospects of earnings – for two or three years. Those few with projected earnings had price-to-earnings ratios literally in the thousands. (To put in context, a price/earnings ratio below 20 is considered solid.)

Tech isn’t dead, that’s for certain. A number of New Economy companies will prove to be winners in the next several years, and some of them may very well be dot-coms. But your portfolio should maintain such investments as just part of the big picture, not the driving force.

Besides, plenty of places outside of Wall Street are available for you to park your hard-earned money. Real estate presents tremendous opportunity as property and land valuations continue to increase. Also, as inflation rises, so will interest rates in vehicles like your local bank’s CDs. We’ve seen meager interest rates on CDs for quite some time now, say, less than 5 percent for a

five-year commitment. But remember what happened in the late 1970s and early 1980s when double-digit CD rates were quite common? Right now, getting 10 percent on your investment sounds like a great deal. Watch for a climb in the rates, then act accordingly.

#### **The Economics of Terror:**

*Detach your emotions from your investing.* The events of Sept. 11 taught us all that we’re vulnerable. This was a direct attack on the very heart of our financial system. In the immediate days of the market re-opening, a selling panic brought the Dow down 14.3 percent, a record 1,370-point plunge.

From a market perspective, the aftermath was reassuring. Anyone who held faith by buying stocks at that point was vastly rewarded. Six months after Sept. 11, the Dow rallied 28.8 percent from its Sept. 21 low.

The terrorists could not destroy our foundation of strength. Ours is the most powerful and resilient economy in the world. We didn’t contract in the fourth quarter of 2001. We grew. Consumers didn’t buy less. They bought more. The lesson here? Don’t get caught up in the emotions of the market. Long-term planning should be based upon clear-headed, logical reasoning, as dictated by proven market principles.

**Recession Fears:** *Trying to “time” an economic swing will cost you in the end.* In 2001 and 2002, economic reports either confirmed or dispelled our perception that we were in a recession. We hung on every word about the nation’s productivity, consumer confidence and a host of other looking-glass factors. You can argue whether we were in a recession or not. But, the truth is, it didn’t matter. The fact is that corporate earnings were in a severe recession, and stocks fell accordingly.

Even as a rebound seemed promising in the middle of this year, we were working ourselves



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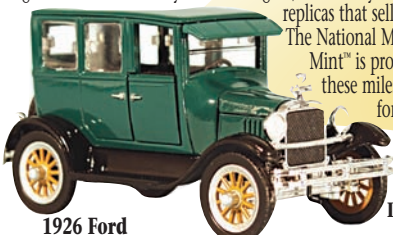
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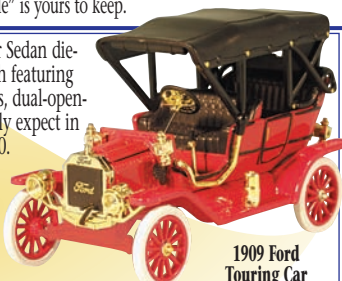
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out of a lot of difficulties. We still had excessive corporation inventories. Business investment was low. This is the natural cycle of business, though. Skies brighten, then cloud up. Storms settle in. Then the forecast gradually improves again. When sunnier days are ahead, you should enjoy the ride up. But stay focused on the value of your investments. Have a long-term strategy, not one strictly focused on quarter-to-quarter performance. People still obsess over Wall Street's expectations of performance vs. actual earnings. My advice is the shareholder needs to take charge of the market instead of letting the market take control of the shareholder.

Attempting to "time" the market is a fool's game. I've never met anyone who can do it with any precision all the time. And you can lose a lot by trying to buy at the lowest and sell at the highest. Pigs get fat, but hogs get slaughtered. Instead, develop a sound plan; determine a reasonable rate of return and stick to it. In my case, I most often sell a stock once it's hit either a 10-percent gain or loss. If it goes down 10 percent, for example, you only lose that much if you sell at that point. Besides, you can always buy it back if it continues to decline. A 10-percent swing is a pretty suggestive sign of the direction it's going.

**The Fed:** *Don't dwell too much on its every word and deed.* We've over-thought the role of the Fed. It can only do so much. It chopped away at interest rates extensively in recent years, and stocks kept dwindling. We hung on every word that Alan Greenspan spoke. But he was just one of many immensely qualified, but still human, experts reading the tea leaves, albeit, he was the biggest one of them all. Still, he made his famous "irrational exuberance" assessment of the boom market in December 1996. The market didn't decline until March 2000. Had you taken immediate

*Don't get caught up  
in the emotions of the market.  
Long-term planning should be  
based upon clear-headed,  
logical reasoning, as dictated by  
proven market principles.*

action upon Greenspan's words, you'd have missed out on three great years of lucrative returns.

**Layoffs:** *Put yourself and your financial house in order before trouble hits.* Unlike the on-again, off-again recession, this was one lingering business news story of the early 21st century of which there was no doubt. Even as the economy recovered earlier this year, the job picture lagged behind. This is actually quite common in bad times. Cutting jobs is the easiest way to shore up the bottom line when times get bad, and restoring those jobs is often put off by employers until after a rebound is well in hand. The number of people collecting jobless benefits hit a 19-year high in April, and the jobless rate leaped to 6 percent. The good news is we're a knowledge-based economy. The bad news is we don't have an adequate amount of training to do other things if we lose our jobs. A corporation's loyalty to an employee is no guarantee, and company-staffing philosophies can shift from quarter to quarter. So you need a back-door plan. Take an honest look at yourself as if you were a commodity. What are your marketable assets? What kind of employer would want you? To do what kind of job?

Anytime you go on the market, an indefinite period will be spent pursuing a new position. Do you have enough liquid savings to hold out? What defines "enough" depends on your age and responsibilities. But, generally, those in their 40s or 50s with a mortgage should have enough to pay a year's worth of expenses. This does not include your retirement savings. It does not include equity in your house. It is savings that you can live on while you

rebound and possibly even get additional training or education to boost your "value-added" prospects in job hunting.

**Rising Debt:** *Get rid of it.* Another way to prepare for the worst is to reduce or eliminate your debt. The burden of losing a job or

dealing with a pay freeze is softened considerably by confronting that credit-card balance. Many families are carrying significant amounts; U.S. households averaged \$8,367 in credit-card debt last year, according to CardWeb. Too many consumers cripple themselves financially by paying only the minimum payment every month, spending literally decades in debt, paying thousands of dollars in interest. The best advice is to condition yourself to use credit cards with discipline. Try to pay off the balance every month. Even if the mortgage has \$150,000 remaining to pay and the credit card has \$2,000, the credit card should be paid off first. Credit-card debt is the worst kind you can carry. You can't deduct the interest from your taxes as you do with your mortgage. The double-digit interest rates charged to you far outpace the single digits you're likely to reap from your investments, as well as the relatively affordable interest rates available for mortgage loans.

Simply stated, the stock market will always be marked with boom times and dog days because it mirrors current economic confidence. However, by following a few simple financial guidelines, such as living within your means, eliminating debt as quickly as possible, diversifying your investments and sticking with a sound financial plan, you can easily build a sizable nest egg, enabling you to live comfortably in your golden years. □

*Lou Dobbs is anchor of CNN's "Lou Dobbs Moneyline." He also anchors a syndicated financial-news radio report for United Stations Radio Networks Inc.*

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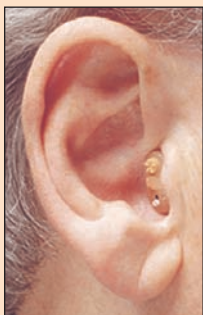
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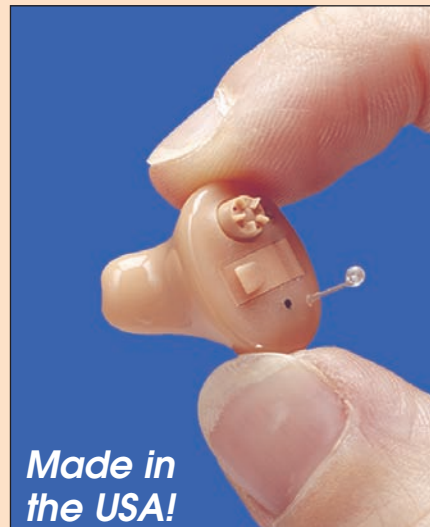
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*The International Criminal Court's absurd claims of jurisdiction over Americans threaten constitutional rights.*

BY SUSAN KATZ KEATING

The year is 2003. American soldiers in Afghanistan become embroiled in a border firefight with Iranian troops. Later, the American unit's commander – a colonel – is vacationing in Germany. While sightseeing, he is snatched off the street by local police. The colonel soon finds himself in prison in the Netherlands. President Bush demands the colonel be released, but Dutch officials insist he instead stand trial in a world court for war crimes. An incensed President Bush prepares to invade The Hague.

Bizarre as it may seem, such a scenario is conceivable, and U.S.



Spc. Michael Hursa mans the gunner position atop an armored vehicle near Brcko, Bosnia. In July, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations threatened to shut down peacekeeping operations if U.S. troops are not granted immunity from the International Criminal Court. **AP**

# Unauthorized Authority



officials are now mulling the possible consequences of a new foreign war-crimes court that claims jurisdiction over American citizens. That new chamber, the International Criminal Court, is based in The Hague. Americans most likely to be targeted for ICC prosecution are the those entrusted with our national defense: government officials, along with our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

"No one is exempt," says Adele Waugaman, media liaison for the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, an ICC support organization. "Not even the president."

The court has stirred considerable controversy in the U.S. government. Rep. Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, has declared the United States must never ratify the treaty establishing the ICC. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has called the court's claims "illegitimate."

**"Unsigning" the Treaty.** The ICC has long been a work in progress. The idea for such a court was first raised after World War II. Discussions began in earnest, though, in the early 1990s when U.N. member states sought to create a permanent institution to prosecute people accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

At first, the United States actively participated in forming the court. "We did this because there truly is a need to prosecute people who mastermind atrocities," says David Scheffer, who was President Clinton's U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes. "The age of impunity for those masterminds must end."

Scheffer and others worked for years to negotiate a treaty establishing the ICC. Points of contention included vulnerabilities of U.S. servicemen, politically motivated prosecutions and the definition of "aggression."

The latter issue was particularly important, Scheffer says. "If there's one crime the United States would be charged with politically, it would be the crime of aggression."

As the Clinton presidency came to a close, the treaty still contained elements unacceptable

to the United States. Clinton declared that he did not recommend that his successor submit the treaty to the U.S. Senate to be ratified. But on Dec. 31, 2000, Clinton dispatched Scheffer to sign it.

"He did it because we felt that the best way to advance our interests was to remain part of the process," Scheffer says.

The Bush administration took a far different stance.

"If we remain party to the treaty, we lend credibility to an institution that is heavily prejudiced against our interests," says a Senate staff member who wishes to remain anonymous. "Our best course of action is to distance ourselves from that court as much as possible. We need to turn our backs."

In May, President Bush did just that. He announced that the United States would withdraw its previous signature; we were, in effect, "unsigning" the treaty.

The United States also threatened to withdraw from U.N. peacekeeping missions if American troops are not given a one-year exemption from the court. Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney reportedly want to seek a permanent exemption.

Nevertheless, more than 60

other nations have ratified their own signatures, thereby putting the treaty into effect. The ICC came into being July 1.

**No Accountability.** The ICC is designed to work on a case-by-case basis. The court moves into action when a member nation files a complaint against an alleged war criminal. The court then issues an arrest warrant, which all member nations are bound to honor. At some point, the accused is arrested, turned over to authorities at The Hague and put on trial.

The treaty is particularly popular in Europe, where most nations have signed on. The ICC also has been endorsed by a number of non-government organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

The main selling point is that the court targets genocidal monsters. "We're going after the Pol Pots and the Hitlers of the world," Waugaman says.

Supporters predict the ICC will act as both a deterrent and a judicial response to war-related crimes. William Pace, an official with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, has called the treaty "a symbol of the triumph of



Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Husseini, Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations, presents to U.N. Undersecretary-General Hans Corell his country's instrument of ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Atoki Ilecka, U.N. Ambassador for the Democratic Republic of Congo, looks on. The ceremony tallied the 60th country to ratify, qualifying the statute for entry-into-force. *corbis*

law over violence and brutality.” Others have termed it “the most significant advance in international law since the founding of the United Nations.”

However, critics charge that the ICC is beset with overwhelming problems. Opponents say the court has no history, no precedents, no tradition of great legal minds, no single binding body of law and no accountability.

Critics continue to question the court’s definition of terms such as “war crimes,” “genocide” and “crimes against humanity.” Experts in international law have pointed out that the 1999 NATO bombing campaign over Yugoslavia, for instance, could qualify as a war crime. A major oil spill at sea might be couched as a crime against humanity.

Furthermore, critics charge, it is uncertain the court can deter atrocities. The United Nations and NATO, for example, set up a war-crimes tribunal and launched a



The United Nations and NATO set up a war-crimes tribunal to prosecute the atrocities of Slobodan Milosevic’s regime in Yugoslavia. The Belgrade leadership only intensified attempts at “ethnic cleansing.” *corbis*

bombing campaign to combat excesses by the Slobodan Milosevic regime in Yugoslavia. Afterwards, the Belgrade leadership only increased its attempts at “ethnic cleansing.”

“Why we should believe that bewigged judges in The Hague will prevent what cold steel has failed to prevent remains largely unexplained,” said John Bolton, speaking to Congress in 2000 before he became undersecretary of state.

ICC supporters point to the successes of the Nuremberg trials that followed World War II. But where Nuremberg – implemented at the scene of the crime by a conquering power – succeeded, other tribunals have not. A tribunal to prosecute war crimes proceeded to a certain point and then stalled. The Yugoslavia tribunal in The Hague bogged down because of the gleefully defiant antics of Milosevic.

Elsewhere, lofty purpose has come to embrace the inexplicably mundane. The European Court of Human Rights routinely rebukes national governments over such matters as workers’ pensions or mail delivery.

How will cases unfold at the ICC?

Since even the judges have not yet been chosen, no one is certain about the cases, other than to say that they probably will occur in great number. An ICC official told *The American Legion Magazine* that by next spring, the court expects a backlog that will exceed its 100-occupancy prison.

This raises yet another question: are there, in truth, more than 100 Hitlers and Pol Pots currently wreaking havoc on ICC-member nations?

# ‘A recipe for isolationism’

On May 6, 2002, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld issued the following statement about the newly created International Criminal Court:

Earlier today, this administration announced the president’s decision to formally notify the United Nations that the United States will not become a party to International Criminal Court treaty. The U.S. declaration, which was delivered to the secretary general this morning, effectively reverses the previous U.S. government decision to become a signatory.

The ICC’s entry into force on July 1 means that our men and women in uniform – as well as current and future U.S. officials – could be at risk of prosecution by the ICC. We intend to make clear, in several ways, that the United States rejects the jurisdictional claims of the ICC. The United States will regard as illegitimate any attempt by the court or state parties to the treaty to assert the ICC’s jurisdiction over American citizens.

The U.S. has a number of serious objections to the ICC – among them, the lack of adequate checks and balances on powers of the ICC prosecutors and judges; the dilution of the U.N. Security Council’s authority over international criminal prosecutions; and the lack of an effective mechanism to prevent politicized prosecutions of American servicemembers and officials.

These flaws would be of concern at any time, but they are particularly troubling in the midst of a difficult, dangerous war on terrorism. There is the risk that the ICC could attempt to assert jurisdiction over U.S. servicemembers, as well as civilians, involved in counter-terrorist and other military operations – something we cannot allow.

Notwithstanding these objections to the treaty, the United States respects the decision of those nations that have chosen to join the ICC. But they, in turn, will need to respect our decision not to join the ICC or to place our citizens under the jurisdiction of the court.

Unfortunately, the ICC will not respect the U.S. decision to stay out of the treaty. To the contrary, the ICC provisions claim the authority to detain and try American citizens – U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, as well as current and future officials – even though the United States has not given its consent to be bound by the treaty. When the ICC treaty enters into force this summer, U.S. citizens will be exposed to the risk of prosecution by a court that is unaccountable to the American people and that has no obligation to respect the constitutional rights of our citizens.

The United States understandably finds that troubling and unacceptable. Clearly ➡see *Isolationism*, page 28



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"Of course not," says the Senate staff member. "So you have to ask: what are they really aiming for?"

Jeremy Rabkin, an international law expert and professor of government at Cornell University, warns that the court is aimed at countries that send their troops abroad – specifically, the United States.

"Keep this in mind," Rabkin says. "We are not part of the treaty, yet we are still within their gunights."

That leads to what opponents say is the ICC's most basic flaw: the court claims a seemingly boundless authority. Any member nation may file a complaint against an "offender." Any non-member nation that asks to join the treaty for the purpose of a single case also is welcome to get onboard.

The court's wide-ranging claims are pegged to an old concept known as the Law of Universal Jurisdiction. That law granted broad powers of jurisdiction to individual nations for the sole purpose of prosecuting stateless pirates who roamed the high seas. Modern war criminals, though, do fall under state authority – an authority the ICC would circumvent.

"The core function of government is enforcing government law," Rabkin says. "What this treaty says is the power to make and enforce criminal law can be detached from constitutional law."

In the United States, that issue alone is monumentally important. "We follow our own Constitution," says the Senate staff member. "Not



Nazi war criminals sit in the defendants' box in a Nuremberg, Germany, courtroom during an international tribunal in November 1945. Supporters of the International Criminal Court point to the successes of the Nuremberg trials. *DoD*

the laws of a foreign court." Furthermore, "our troops follow the U.S. chain of command."

**Coming Crisis?** The treaty's threat to American soldiers has so alarmed American lawmakers that Congress passed legislation this summer specifically repudiating foreign claims over U.S. troops. That legislation, the American Servicemembers Protection Act, empowers the president to dispatch American troops abroad only if allies guarantee they will not use the ICC to encroach on U.S. authority over its own people. Additionally, the legislation authorizes the president to use military force to liberate any American detained anywhere on behalf of the ICC.

The ICC's supporters are not happy about the American Servicemembers Protection Act.

"It's an in-your-face threat to

many of our friends and allies around the world," Scheffer says. "It's literally a declaration of war against the court."

Others maintain that the court itself is the antagonist.

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger was so outraged by the terms of the ICC that two years ago he simply told Congress, "This treaty ought to be junked."

Clearly, the opposite has happened. Only time will reveal the consequences.

Rabkin predicts a crisis. The scenario involving the Iranian fire-fight is one possibility. Any enemy could conceivably raise "nuisance" charges against American forces and their commanding colonel. "A colonel would suit the court's needs," Rabkin says. "He's high enough in rank to be important, yet low enough that they would think they could get away with it."

Two years ago, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., told his own Foreign Relations Committee to prepare for such an event. "The day is not far off," he said, "when American servicemen and officials will face indictment by an international criminal court." □

*Susan Katz Keating is author of the book "Prisoners of Hope: Exploiting the POW/MIA Myth in America" and director of special programs for the Freedom Museum in Manassas, Va.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

**[Isolationism]** the existence of an International Criminal Court, which attempts to claim jurisdiction over our men and women in uniform stationed around the world, will necessarily complicate U.S. military cooperation with countries that are parties to the ICC treaty – because those countries may now incur a treaty obligation to hand over U.S. nationals to the court, even over U.S. objections. The United States would consider any such action to be illegitimate.

We obviously intend to avoid such actions. Fortunately there may

be mechanisms within the treaty by which we can work bilaterally with friends and allies, to the extent they are willing, to prevent the jurisdiction of the treaty and thus avoid complications in our military cooperation. Obviously, countries that have not ratified the treaty would be under no such obligation to cooperate with the court.

By putting U.S. men and women in uniform at risk of politicized prosecutions, the ICC could well create a powerful disincentive for U.S. military engagement in the world. If so, it could be a recipe for

isolationism – something that would be unfortunate for the world, given that our country is committed to engagement in the world and to contributing to a more peaceful and stable world.

For a strong deterrent, it is critical that the U.S. be leaning forward, not back. We must be ready to defend our people, our interests and our way of life. We have an obligation to protect our men and women in uniform from this court and to preserve America's ability to remain engaged in the world. And we intend to do so. □



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# *for the* Veteran

*National  
Commander  
Ron Conley has  
'the heart of  
The American  
Legion' when  
it comes to  
serving others.*



Ron Conley has spent three decades working on behalf of Pennsylvania veterans. As national commander of The American Legion, one of his major concerns is improved VA health care. *Tom Strattman*

## BY MATT GRILLS

The U.S. government promised long ago to provide for veterans. Ron Conley, The American Legion's new national commander, has spent his life making sure that happens in his home state of Pennsylvania.

His name is a familiar one at local VA medical centers. Conley checks conditions, scrutinizes re-

ports and talks to directors, never afraid to sound the alarm if he sees trouble. He's also testified before Congress on long-term care and other issues. He does it all because he believes those who wore the uniform are entitled to the best treatment this nation can offer.

That conviction goes back to the mid-'60s, when Conley was an air policeman stationed in Guam. One day, wounded troops

passed through the air base on their way home from Vietnam. Among them was a young man who lost his vision when a mortar struck his unit.

"I was on duty at the time and had an opportunity to talk with him," Conley recalls. "He wanted to know who was going to take care of him when he came back to the United States."

That question stayed with



Conley after he returned from the service in 1966. He followed in the footsteps of his father, a World War II veteran, by starting an apprenticeship in steamfitting – and later by joining The American Legion. It was through that organization that Conley, who didn't have the opportunity to serve in Vietnam, found the best way to help the men who did.

Now, as national commander, he's eager to inspire in others that same hunger.

"What Ron has taught me is that you find time and do it if it pertains to veterans," says Steve Dennison, department service officer for Pennsylvania. "He has the heart of The American Legion."

**Blue-Collar Commander.** Conley and his wife, Barbara, settled in the hills south of Pittsburgh following his discharge from the Air Force, buying a home in Scott Township. The brick two-story has quite a history; the couple's five children grew up in the house, and now their 10 grandchildren come over to play in the back yard or swim in the pool. During the '70s, the Conleys' house doubled as the township's Legion post.

"Ron was a member of the Castle Shannon Post, and because he spent so much time down there, I asked him, 'Why don't you start a post in our own township?'" Barbara recalls. "I said, 'You can fly the American flag out front and put the seal on our living-room window.' He took me up on it."

Post 290 has its own building now, but Conley remains a touchstone for the veterans of his community. "I can't tell you how many people call my house and ask for his assistance, from getting somebody into a hospital to helping somebody file a claim," Barbara says.

Try to shower him with accolades and Conley won't hear it.

He'd rather focus on the job at hand, whether it's helping craft a resolution for the Legion's National Executive Committee or welding pipes at a construction site. Truthfully, he doesn't see the two as all that different – being a union worker and a Legionnaire, that is. Both organizations are patriotic, respect the flag and are committed to serving others, he says.

The Conley name goes back generations at Steamfitters Local #449 in Pittsburgh. Conley's grandfather, father and two uncles were members; Conley and his son, Ronnie, carry on the tradition.

While he's done a few commercial projects, including supervising heating and air-conditioning control work at the Pittsburgh airport, most of Conley's time on the clock has been spent handling piping in powerhouses, steel mills and chemical plants. The job has its share of risks; Conley's been gassed, fallen from 20 feet up and known the pain of a two-inch steel cap hitting him in the forehead with 100 pounds of pressure behind it.

"I've had almost nine lives in construction work," he says.

**Born to Lead.** Conley earned his reputation as a good man to work for back in the '70s, when he served as union steward during construction of the Bruce Mansfield Power Plant in Shippingport. With as many as 500 steamfitters on site at the project's peak, Conley shouldered the heavy responsibility of representing his union in jurisdictional disputes with 13 other crafts.

"He did fantastic," says William Beardsley Jr., Steamfitters Local #449 business agent

and a friend of Conley for 25 years. "Ronnie works toward compromise and consensus as opposed to confrontation. He's excellent when it comes to getting to the meat and potatoes of an issue and finding common ground. Quite a few contractors are eager to have his services in supervisory capacities."



Ron Conley and his wife, Barbara, moved to Pittsburgh following Conley's discharge from the Air Force in 1966. They have five children and 10 grandchildren. *Tom Strattman*

That ability to work with people makes Conley a natural when it comes to Legion leadership. On the post level, he served four years as commander and 22 years as adjutant. He also served as county commander and district commander before Pennsylvania Legionnaires elected him department commander in 1987. During his term Conley founded The American Legion for Homeless Veterans Corp., which most people consider his greatest achievement.

"We spent \$40,000 for four

# Ronald F. Conley

**Residence:** Pittsburgh

**Age:** 58

**Family:** Wife Barbara; children Christina, Ronald II, Denise, Shannon and Tim; grandchildren Tara, Tracy, Kaitlyn, Erin, Josh, Brian, Andrew, Jonathon, Daniel, Benjamin

**Education:** Mount Lebanon High School, Pittsburgh, 1962; Steamfitters Local #449 apprenticeship program; associate's degree in construction management, Community College of Allegheny County, 1978

**Military:** U.S. Air Force, 1963-1966; served as an air policeman at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio, and Anderson Air Force Base, Guam; received honorable discharge October 1966

**Business and professional experience:** Steamfitters Local #449 member, 1967-2002; served as union steward and on election committee, finance committee and examining board; superintendent and general foreman on million-dollar projects, including powerhouses, steel mills and the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport

**Affiliations:** Sts. Simon and Jude Roman Catholic Church, Catholic War Veterans, Knights of Equity, ANAVICUS

## **The American Legion:**

**Post** – Adjutant, commander

**County** – Junior vice commander, senior vice commander, commander

**District** – Finance officer, commander

**Department** – Vice commander, commander, Boy Scouts Committee chairman, Housing Committee chairman, Membership & Post Activities Committee chairman, Rehabilitation chairman; president of Pennsylvania American Legion National Convention Corporation, 1993

**National** – Advisory Committee to the National Commander, Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Citizens Flag Alliance, Convention Commission Liaison Committee, Distinguished Guests Committee, Foreign Relations Council vice chairman, Legislative Commission Liaison Committee, Legislative Council vice chairman, National Executive Committeeman, National Security Commission, Subcommittee on Resolutions

**Achievements and honors:** Founder and president of The American Legion for Homeless Veterans Corp., 1988; gubernatorial appointment to Vietnam Veterans Herbicide Commission, 1982; served on advisory boards to Allegheny County Commissioners, the late Sen. John Heinz, Sen. Rick Santorum and former U.S. Rep. Doug Walgren

**Awards:** Pennsylvania American Legion Distinguished Service Award, Veterans Affairs Meritorious Service Award, National Pioneer Award, National Achievement Award, 100-Percent District Commander, 100-Percent Department Commander



*Courtesy Ron Conley*

homes and \$5,000 to renovate them – a small price to pay for giving somebody a second chance at life,” he says. The program now operates eight homes in Pennsylvania and serves as a model for similar efforts nationwide.

Conley's hard work has long had the admiration of peers, who expect the next Legion year to be a productive one under his hand.

“He's aggressive,” says John Titus, a past Pennsylvania department commander who has enjoyed a 30-year friendship with Conley. “If he says something, you can take it to the bank.”

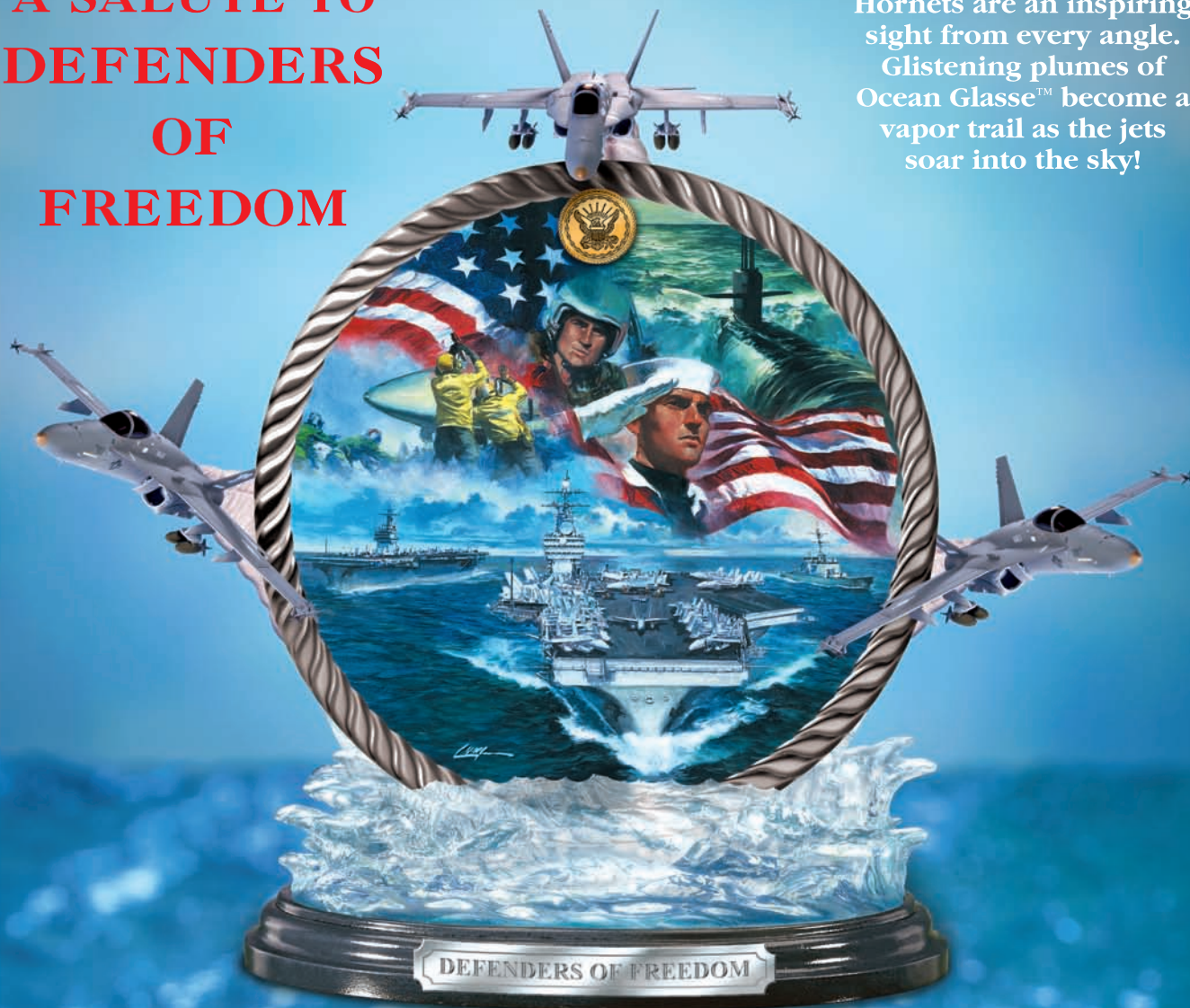
Dr. Almo J. Sebastianelli, past national vice commander, has worked alongside Conley on the department and national levels. He's certain the new commander is the man to put the Legion in America's spotlight.

“Ron will be vigilant in protecting veterans' rights,” Sebastianelli says. “He will be seen. He will be heard.”

**A Legion Family.** From the day Conley joined the Legion, he's purposely limited his involvement with other organizations so he could give 100 percent. “We always used to say the Legion was his hobby, but it's his life,” Barbara says, laughing.



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Conley decorates veterans' graves at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Pittsburgh with grandsons Joshua, 12, and Andrew, 4, on Memorial Day. *Tom Stratman*

Their kids know all too well. "Our vacations were the conventions," says Denise DeCollo, one of the Conleys' three daughters. "We knew Philadelphia as well as we knew Pittsburgh."

Barbara combined those trips to Legion meetings with visits to Valley Forge, the Liberty Bell and Betsy Ross' home. "She always wanted our kids to understand where we were and what the Legion is about, so she'd make them write an essay on the way home about their experience," Conley says. "I think they're better for it."

Helping with poppy sales and decorating veterans' graves are other sweet memories the Conley children share with their father; now their own children accompany "Pap" to the cemetery on Memorial Day, miniature flags in hand.

"We've been a Legion family, supporting all he does," Barbara says.

If Conley isn't at home on holidays, it's safe to say he's addressing a group of Legionnaires somewhere in the state. He insists his vocabulary needs work; in fact, he carries around an electronic dictionary to aid him in preparing speeches. But elegant words do not a speaker make; delivery and enthusiasm are the keys. Evidence suggests

Conley doesn't lack either.

Take a speech he gave years ago at a Veterans Day program in Tyrone, one that made a surprising impact on a newspaper reporter. The woman approached Conley after he finished speaking to tell him she lost her son in Vietnam. "I thought he died in vain, and I've criticized the government in the newspaper every chance I've had," she continued. "You made me realize my son died for a reason."

**The War Effort.** Asked if he plans to promote a specific Legion program, Conley points to the American Legion flag. "That's my program," he responds.

He'd like to see more publicity on the Legion's Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship. He wants to keep members apprised about the CARES program, which he fears is the first step in dismantling VA hospitals. But Conley doesn't see a need to change the Legion's course.

"We're engaged in national security. We're concerned about patriotism. We're concerned about health care for veterans," he says. "I think we're on track."

Sept. 11 has been the springboard for Conley's year as national commander. He asks Legion posts to be the outlet for Americans to participate in the war effort, whether through VA hospitals, homeland security initiatives, children's education or patriotic events.



Scott Township Post 290 owes its existence to Conley, who founded it 30 years ago. The post met in his home for eight years before securing a building, one that includes a small duckpin bowling alley. *Tom Stratman*



Conley talks with Horace Turner, an Army combat medic who left the service in 1991 and ended up on the streets. Thanks to Conley's American Legion for Homeless Veterans Corporation, which operates eight homes in Pennsylvania, Turner has a place to live while he rebuilds his life. *Tom Stratman*

"We get a lot of warnings about possible terrorist attacks," he says. "People are frustrated. They don't know what to do. The American Legion should be able to give direction."

Conley especially wants to bring back to the fold Legionnaires who think they're too old to help. He offers this maxim: *The mind conceives, the heart believes and the hands achieve.*

"If your mind works and you believe something in your heart, you don't need to get around like you used to," he says. "Write a letter. Make a phone call. Let your hands do what needs to be done."

Conley is just as clear about what he expects from himself. As a leader, he must instill in others the belief that what they're doing matters – that in even the small tasks, they are doing something to help make The American Legion a better organization.

"That's the challenge," he says. □

*Matt Grills is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.*

*Article design: King Doxsee*



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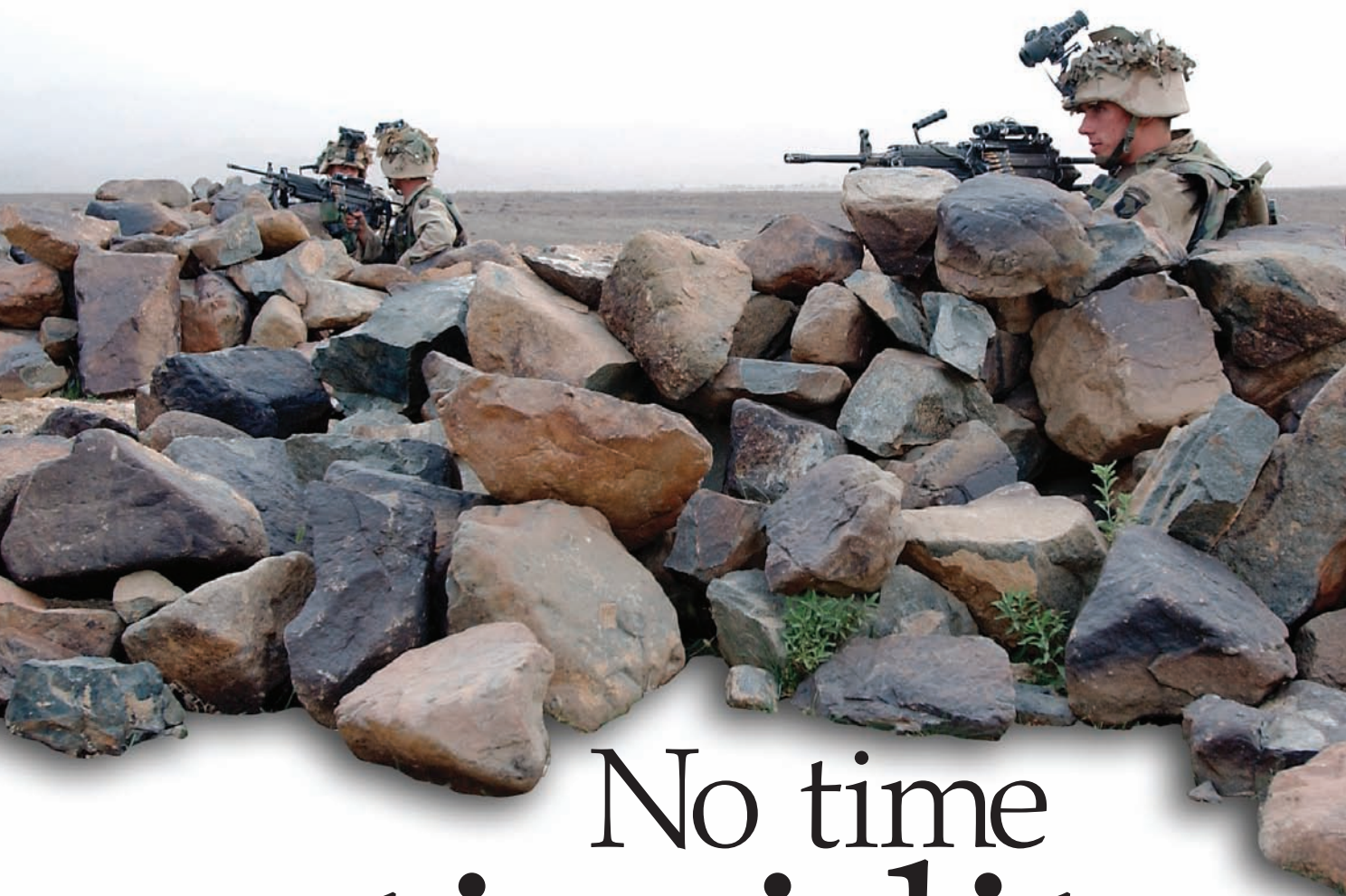
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# No time for timidity

*To win the war on terror, America must change its negative perception of "mission creep."*

BY ALAN W. DOWD

Long before he served in the Bush administration, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld began collecting little morsels of common and not-so-common sense. Dubbed "Rumsfeld's Rules," the collection of wit and wisdom is virtually required reading in Washington. However, with the next step in the war on terror hindered by Beltway worries over a wider war, it appears that at least

one of Rumsfeld's rules, in which he quotes President Eisenhower, is being ignored: "If a problem cannot be solved, enlarge it."

The problem, of course, is terrorism and its patrons, architects and infrastructure. That means the problem extends far beyond Afghanistan. If nothing else, Sept. 11 taught the United States that terrorism's war on civilization cannot be contained to faraway places, within tidy geographic boundaries. Consequently, neither can civiliza-

tion's war on terrorism. As Rumsfeld observed during the early phases of the war in Afghanistan, "The only way to deal with these terrorist threats is to go at them where they exist ... to take the battle to where they are."

However, doing that over the long haul requires the American people, along with their government and military, to reevaluate the way they look at the entire world, as they did at the outset of the Cold War. This simply has not yet





Soldiers from an airborne division set up a security perimeter in Afghanistan earlier this year. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said the war on terror must be fought wherever terrorism exists. *U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Todd M. Roy*

enemy,” he explained, “is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them.” The network extends into 60 countries, many of which oppose terrorism but lack the means to combat it. This category includes such disparate places as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Somalia, Georgia and even Colombia.

Next are the countries that, in Bush’s words, “oppose terror but tolerate the hatred that leads to terror.” Sudan and Saudi Arabia fall into this category. Until last October, so did Pakistan. However, in the intervening months, Pakistan has proven with words and actions that it is indeed an ally in the war on terror. The picture is not so clear for the Saudis and the Sudanese.

Finally, there is the hard core of terrorism. We know them well – Libya, Arafat’s Palestine, Syria, Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Even this group can be broken down into terrorist subgroups. Libya is slowly limping away from its old ways. Given the right incentives or pressures, Syria and proto-Palestine might choose the path of reform. Iran has a growing reform movement of its own, while the regimes in Iraq and North Korea seem sadly beyond reform or repair.

Still, the United States cannot wage the war on terror based on hope and hypotheticals. Washington must deal with the hard facts of the here and now. The facts are that along with terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida, the al-Aqsa Martyrs and others, these governments have come together at what Bush calls “the perilous crossroads of radicalism and technology.”

Some have money, some have intelligence capabilities, some have technology, some have personnel, some have weapons of mass destruction. All of them have motives. Whether they comprise an “axis of evil” or something else is irrelevant. These groups and states do exist, and as long as they continue to poison the planet, they are a threat to the civilized world.

**Who’s Winning?** Unraveling terror’s hard core will obviously be far more difficult than toppling the heroin dealers who ruled Afghanistan. As former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher observes, they “have had years to entrench themselves, and they will not be dislodged without fierce and bloody resistance.” However, Thatcher’s words should not dissuade America from carrying this war into the very heart of the global terror network. To borrow the parlance of the Cold War, the United States must be prepared to roll back every regime that supports terror. This is not to say that U.S. troops need to be omnipresent for the war to be successful. However, it does mean that if a government is unable to move against terrorists inside its borders, the U.S. military will have to help as it has in Georgia and the Philippines. And if a government refuses that help, it is choosing war – the kind of war visited upon the Taliban, the kind of war it will not survive.

In the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, the Bush administration seemed to be guided by this grim reality. Then came Israel’s springtime counteroffensive in Ramallah, followed by nuclear saber-rattling in Kashmir, and the nascent war on terror bogged down. Rather than incorporating these conflicts into the wider war, the White House seemed determined

occurred in the war on terror. Until it does – until the war becomes an overlay for every hotspot and conflict on the globe, a prism through which everything else is considered – the roots of global terrorism will remain intact. And America’s anti-terror campaign will not achieve what the American people demand.

The first step in reversing this course is to follow Rumsfeld’s rules and enlarge the problem. In short, mission creep should not only be expected in the war on terror; it should be encouraged.

**Hard Facts.** How large is large enough? President George W. Bush was on the right track last September when he spelled out the doctrine that bears his name. “Our

making and using guided or ballistic missiles.  
**miss-ing** (mīś'ing) *adj.* Not present; absent; lost; lacking.  
**mis-sion creep** (mīsh'ən krēp) —*n.* 1. The unpredicted expansion of a military operation.  
**mis-sion-ar-y** (mīsh'ə-nēr'ē) *n., pl. -ies.* 1. One who is sent on a mission; especially, a person sent to do religious or charitable work. 2. An establishment of missionaries abroad. 3. The

to quarantine its anti-terror campaign from them. As the spiral of events in South Asia and across the Middle East illustrates, this is a self-defeating proposition.

Consider the past year, which saw terror's foot-soldiers strike symbols of modernity in New York and Karachi, institutions of stability in Delhi and Washington, expressions of religious pluralism in Islamabad and Netanya. In just 12 months, the enemy killed 3,547 people; wounded another 1,080; destabilized global economic markets; threatened friendly governments from Israel to India to Indonesia; exposed deep fissures between the United States and its friends in Europe; sent the Asian subcontinent careening toward a nuclear holocaust; and helped derail Washington's plans to carry the war beyond Afghanistan.

When viewed through the prism of the war on terror, these events – some of which occurred *after* the U.S.-led liberation of Afghanistan – spell victory for the terrorists. And such disparate events will continue to translate into small victories for the enemies of civilization and small defeats for the civilized world until Washington recognizes these conflicts for what they are: local fronts in a global war.

**Transformations.** After a season of hedging, summer 2002 became a turning point for the Bush administration. "We must take the battle to the enemy, disrupt his plans and confront the worst threats before they emerge," he declared during a visit to West Point. He soon put some of those enemies on notice: "I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror," he said. "Every nation actually committed to peace must block the shipment of Iranian supplies to ... regimes that promote terror, like Iraq," he added. "And Syria must choose the right side in the war on terror by closing terrorist camps and expelling terrorist organizations."

The United States has good reason to put these regimes in its crosshairs. Once armed with nuclear or chemical weapons, these governments and their terror partners could destroy not just buses in Tel Aviv or buildings in Manhattan, but entire cities.

To prevent that, Bush has unveiled a "preemptive strike" doctrine, which promises to be costly. But as America learned Sept. 11, it is better to pay in treasure than with blood. As in 1941, 1951 and 1981, defense spending must again become a national priority. In its first post-Sept. 11 budget, the White House earmarked \$369 billion for defense – a 12-percent increase over the previous year. The president's Office of Management and Budget estimates defense outlays of \$4.5 trillion over the next decade. However, given the kind of war that lies ahead, even this figure may be too low. As Rumsfeld observed in testimony before the Senate in February, "In the Eisenhower and Kennedy era, we were spending about 10 percent of our gross national product on defense [and] over 50 percent of the federal budget on defense."

The 2003 defense budget, by comparison, amounts to just 17 percent of the overall federal budget and a scant 3.3 percent of GDP.

According to historian Mark Helprin, if the United States invested merely "the peacetime average of the last half-century," its current defense budget would be \$655 billion. If the American

people refuse to muster even that with 3,000 of their countrymen erased without warning or cause, they never will.

Of course, the American people haven't really been asked to make such a sacrifice. But history reminds us that they will, as long as the president makes a persuasive case.

*To borrow the parlance of the Cold War, the United States must be prepared to roll back every regime that supports terror.*



Roosevelt had to convince an isolationist America to aid Great Britain prior to America's entry into World War II. President Truman had to make the case for NATO and the Marshall Plan. On top of postwar reconstruction, President Eisenhower asked the American people to double defense spending, fueling a costly and brutal arms race with Moscow – an arms race President Reagan ended with a withering volley of military spending in the 1980s that ballooned the national debt.

Still, solving a problem this large will require more than new military doctrines and new arsenals. It will require a genuine transformation of the U.S. government. Washington's decision to create a Department of Homeland Security may signal that such a transformation is under way. Among other things, the new department is forcing the nation to rethink security and brace for what President Kennedy might have called a long, twilight struggle against terror. Bringing together such disparate agencies as the INS, Coast Guard, Customs Service, FEMA and the Nuclear Incident Response office, the reorganization is both a substantive public-policy initiative and a symbolic example of the political-governmental transformation the nation must undergo to win this war.

**A Fearsome Force?** If the war on terror matures into a truly global campaign, U.S. military commanders must become as audacious and fearless as the men they are sending into battle. This all-important transformation of the military-command mindset is progressing slowly.





Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division participating in Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan prepare to dig into fighting positions after a day of reacting to enemy fire.

*U.S. Army photo by Spc. David Marck Jr.*

should follow the example of Lincoln and send them into early retirement. Now is no time for timidity.

Once it is unfettered, the U.S. military can be the most fearsome

force on earth. Japan learned that in April 1942, just four months after the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Doing the unthinkable, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle used Navy aircraft carriers to launch Army bombers into the skies over Tokyo. The bombers arrived in broad daylight, throwing a stunning counter-punch at Japan's once-invulnerable homeland and foreshadowing the war's devastating final blow.

When Stalin tried to squeeze the allies out of Berlin by blockading the city's western half, Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay blended the principles of strategic bombing with the efficiency of a Detroit assembly line to sustain a city for an entire year and win the first

battle of the Cold War. When all seemed lost in Korea, it was Gen. Douglas MacArthur who did the impossible by landing at Inchon, crushing the North Koreans and rescuing South Korea.

A dozen years later, when the Kremlin tried to tip the nuclear balance in Cuba, the Pentagon used a mix of restraint and rapid reflexes to face down Moscow and stave off armageddon. As he watched the United States gather its forces and form a fist during those 13 days in October, an awe-struck Gen. de Gaulle is reported to have remarked, "There is really only one superpower."

What was true in 1962 remains true today. After all, that's one reason America was attacked on Sept. 11, and it's why only the United States can marshal the resources needed to solve this problem. But if America fails to enlarge the problem and transform itself, terrorism's war on civilization may soon grow too large and too deadly to be solved at all. □

*Alan W. Dowd is an assistant vice president at the Hudson Institute in Indianapolis as well as a freelance writer.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*

In May, we learned that "high-ranking uniformed officials" at the Pentagon had put the brakes on a military operation against Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Setting aside the glaring problem that it is the Pentagon's responsibility to execute national policy, not define it, one is left to ponder why these courageously anonymous officials decided to break the chain of command.

Reasonable people can disagree on the necessity or prudence of an imminent assault on Baghdad. If the brass steered the White House clear of Iraq in order to survey the home-front landscape, then one can respect their motives, if not their methods. Given the history of the past 30 years, it's hard to blame Rumsfeld's charges for being skittish. Americans have grown increasingly impatient and squeamish over these decades. In the shadow of Vietnam, the American people demanded short, painless wars. And the Pentagon delivered, each mini-war conditioning the American public to expect less blood and less sacrifice than the previous conflict. And this, in turn, conditioned the U.S. military to be overly cautious, curbing its audacity and leading inevitably to more low-risk, low-impact wars.

Likewise, if the Pentagon concluded that hardware and manpower limitations make it impossible to remove Saddam Hussein while maintaining security commitments in Korea, Europe and the Pacific, then Helprin's assessment is accurate. However, if latter-day McClellans are roaming the Pentagon, the president



Cradling his weapon, an Electrician's Mate 3rd Class monitors local boat traffic in San Diego Harbor while escorting the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* (CV 64) to North Island, Calif. Escort duties are part of the Navy's force protection measures. *U.S. Navy photo by Airman Jason Landon*

# Stolen Identities

*The nation's fastest-growing crime puts all Americans at risk, especially military personnel and veterans.*

BY GARY TURBAK

A single phone call in March 1997 rocked the lives of retired Air Force Col. John T. Stevens and his wife, Mary Elizabeth. Their identities had been stolen.

A bank investigator was on the line, wondering why Stevens – a university physicist – hadn't made any payments on the Jeep Cherokee he bought in Dallas in 1996. Problem was, Stevens didn't buy the vehicle, and he hadn't been in Texas since serving at Randolph Air Force Base in 1950. An impostor used his name and identification to steal the vehicle, but that was only the tip of the iceberg. In all, Stevens' name had been sullied to the tune of 33 delinquent accounts and \$113,000 debt.

Simply put, identity theft is the

unauthorized use or sale of someone's personal information for the purpose of committing a crime. One crook purchased homes, obtained loans, incurred \$100,000 in credit-card debt and even filed for bankruptcy – all in someone else's name. Identity theft is reportedly the fastest-growing crime in the nation. Last year, it accounted for 40 percent of the consumer fraud complaints received by the Federal Trade Commission. Consumer groups estimate that 750,000 people suffer more than \$1 billion in losses annually.

In some cases, veterans are especially vulnerable, but anyone can become a victim. One identity thief – a high-school dropout busboy – went for the deepest pockets, targeting 200 people on *Forbes* magazine's list of richest Americans. Another used someone else's identity to enter a hospital and have her baby. Even

Tiger Woods, Steven Spielberg and

Oprah Winfrey have had their identities misused.

**Take a Number.** Identity thieves learn about their victims by stealing mail, finding lost wallets, going through someone's trash, looking over shoulders at ATM machines, posing as a lender to get a credit report or harvesting data off the Internet. In many cases, the key piece of purloined information is the victim's Social Security account number (SSAN). "This is especially a problem for military people and veterans, because so many records are tied to their Social Security numbers," says Deborah Snider, transition policy analyst at the Army Personnel Command.

Since their creation in 1935 exclusively for tracking earnings, SSANs have evolved into a kind of one-stop identifier by which many merchants, hospitals, lenders and others grant quick credit. With little more than a person's SSAN, an identity thief can wreak financial havoc. When Stevens finally got to see the illicit paperwork for the stolen Jeep, he found that the only accurate information it contained was his name and SSAN.

SSANs are not difficult to get. According to the American Association of Retired Persons, identity thieves can buy the numbers





online for \$20 apiece. If the intended victim is a veteran, crooks might simply go to a county courthouse. Appropriated for military identification purposes in 1967, SSANs appear on many service-related documents, most notably DD-214 discharge forms. For decades, military authorities urged veterans to register their DD-214s at local courthouses so a certified copy might always be available. But such registration makes the DD-214 a public document – very public if a courthouse posts the forms online, as some do.

Not surprisingly, identity thieves have learned to harvest this crop of DD-214 information. One crook's computer contained the names and SSANs of thousands of veterans, information apparently gleaned from county records. Consequently, many military authorities no longer advise veterans to file discharge forms in any public place.

The vulnerability of veterans and active-duty personnel goes far beyond courthouses. In 1999, someone gleaned the names and SSANs of several military retirees from the *Congressional Record*, then posted that information on the In-

ternet. In 2000, a New Jersey man set up more than 300 fake credit cards after gleaning the SSANs of high-ranking military officers from Internet sites. The Stevenses believe their identities were stolen from Air Force records. People on active duty can be easy targets because they move often, may have financial accounts in multiple states or even countries and often live apart from their spouses.

### No Sympathy.

Although the 1998 Identity Theft Act makes it a federal offense to assume another person's identity with the intention of committing a crime, and stealing is always illegal, many victims quickly learn that no one much cares about their plight. Police, if they are interested at all, consider the ripped-off bank, credit-card company or merchant – not the person whose identity was stolen – to be the real victim. Most creditors choose to write off the loss rather than go through the hassle of prosecution.

Consequently, victimized individuals are often left to fend for themselves. While they are not liable for most debts fraudulently attributed to them, clearing their names can be a nightmare. Creditors put Stevens' house under surveillance, and one bank almost towed away his Ford Bronco, somehow thinking it might be the missing Jeep. He and his wife spent more than \$6,000 and hundreds of hours extricating themselves from the morass of bogus accounts, bad credit reports, banks demanding payment and more than a dozen persistent col-

lection agencies.

When one realizes that a victim isn't going to pay, it may sell that account to another collection firm, and the whole hassle starts anew. One of Stevens' accounts was recycled this way six times. "There is always the feeling of waiting for another shoe to drop," Stevens says. He and his wife now worry about a creditor making a claim on their estate after they die.

"It is degrading and demeaning to be accused of being an irresponsible deadbeat," Stevens says. "This is a crime that can completely disrupt your life." □

*Gary Turbak is a freelance writer living in Missoula, Mont.*

*Article design: Doug Rollison*



## Avoid identity theft

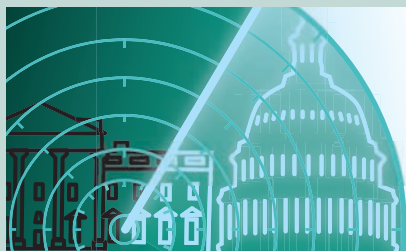
Experts suggest the following preventive measures:

- Scrutinize your credit report annually.
- Guard your Social Security number. Don't give it out unless absolutely necessary.
- Shred trash that contains personal information, including pre-approved credit-card offers and credit-card receipts.
- Never divulge personal information over the phone unless you have initiated the call.
- If possible, use a locked mailbox.
- Check credit-card statements, phone bills and bank statements for fraudulent charges or withdrawals.
- Keep your DD-214 and other personal documents in a safe place.
- Don't routinely carry your Social Security card, birth certificate or passport.
- Sign your credit cards.
- Don't put your Social Security number on checks.
- Don't write PINs and passwords on anything you routinely carry away from home.
- Always take credit-card receipts with you. Don't throw them in a store's trash.

## Military success

This month marks the first anniversary of the beginning of combat operations in Afghanistan. Most observers agree that the U.S.-led assault on al-Qaida and its Taliban hosts, which began Oct. 7, 2001, was an unqualified military success. Pentagon and State Department officials have detailed that success in a series of briefings before Congress; however, they are couching their assessments with warnings that the anti-terror campaign is far from over. According to Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, "our task extends well beyond Afghanistan."

Still, the difficulty of the road ahead doesn't diminish what has been accomplished. Indeed, just 78 days after the beginning of combat operations, the United States and its allies had removed the Taliban and paved the way for the interim government of Hamid Karzai. Just six months after that, 1,500 delegates representing every ethnic group and all 32 provinces in Afghanistan endorsed Karzai's government and elected him to a two-year term as their president, marking the first time in 23 years the people of Afghanistan were free to choose their own leader. Since last October, some 1.2 million refugees



have returned to Afghanistan, and the United Nations expects 2 million refugees to return to this increasingly stable patch of Central Asia. Half of al-Qaida's 30 most-wanted terrorists have been killed or captured. More than 500 al-Qaida fighters are detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Pakistan alone has apprehended 378 al-Qaida fighters. In addition, some 2,400 suspected terrorists have been arrested in a global dragnet spanning 90 countries. The intelligence gleaned from these detainees has prevented a number of additional attacks in the United States, Morocco, Singapore, Pakistan and elsewhere.

The success is even more impressive given the fact that a war plan for Afghanistan didn't exist on Sept. 11, 2001. According to Wolfowitz, "Gen. (Tommy) Franks was starting from scratch on Sept. 20, when he received the order to begin planning, but less than three weeks later, on Oct. 7, we commenced military operations." Wolfowitz called the attack and swift liberation of landlocked Afghanistan "a remarkable feat of logistical and operational agility."

— A.W.D.

## New allies

Even as the media leaked news about a possible U.S. attack on Iraq, what hasn't been as widely reported is some of the diplomatic activity swirling around the issue.

With relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States increasingly chilly, Washington has begun to forge new friendships with key nations in the region. Eritrea, a little-known country on the western shore of the Red Sea, is one of those nations. The Pentagon has discussed basing rights with the Eritrean government, which has welcomed the budding friendship.

Another likely bridgehead in any war against Iraq is Jordan, which actually sided with Baghdad during the first Gulf War. However, Jordan has indicated it is eager to cement an alliance with Washington. Jordan's Prince Hassan represented the kingdom at a high-profile conference of Iraqi opposition groups in June. Lt. Gen. Khalid Jamil Surayrih, Jordan's equivalent to America's chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently met with Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of U.S. Central Command. And

Jordan's King Abdullah has met with Bush no less than five times since February 2001. Bush has already doubled economic and military aid to Amman.

Further fueling speculation of a U.S.-Jordanian military alliance are published reports that hundreds of American advisers have begun arriving in the kingdom. In fact, there are indications that the U.S. military is in the process of refitting airfields inside Jordan. U.S. military planners, speaking on condition of anonymity, concede that Jordan would serve as an ideal base for warplanes and ground troops in an attack on Iraq, just as Pakistan did vis-à-vis Afghanistan.

In addition, after months of hedging, longtime U.S. ally Turkey has signed off on the campaign to topple Saddam Hussein. Turkish news agencies report that Wolfowitz's late-summer visit to Turkey persuaded Ankara to support the second phase of the war on terror. Turkey played a key role in the Gulf War and is currently leading an international peacekeeping force charged with stabilizing the Afghan capital of Kabul.

## Greener pastures

Responding to reports that the Capitol Hill Police force is losing scores of officers each month, Congress is working on legislation to recruit new officers and retain current ones with financial incentives.

Many are headed to the newly minted Transportation Safety Administration, created in the wake of Sept. 11 to beef up security at airports and on commercial aircraft. In fact, the TSA has already received some 200,000 applications for the program. The TSA offers high-paying, benefit-laden jobs to police officers, many of whom will be deployed as "sky marshals." TSA officers can reportedly earn as much as \$30,000 more per year than a Capitol Hill officer.

Introduced by Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, and Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the legislation provides for a steep pay raise, tuition reimbursement, bonus money for continuing education, retroactive overtime pay, an increase in the retirement age and recruitment incentives. The bill passed the House without dissent and now awaits Senate action.

— Alan W. Dowd



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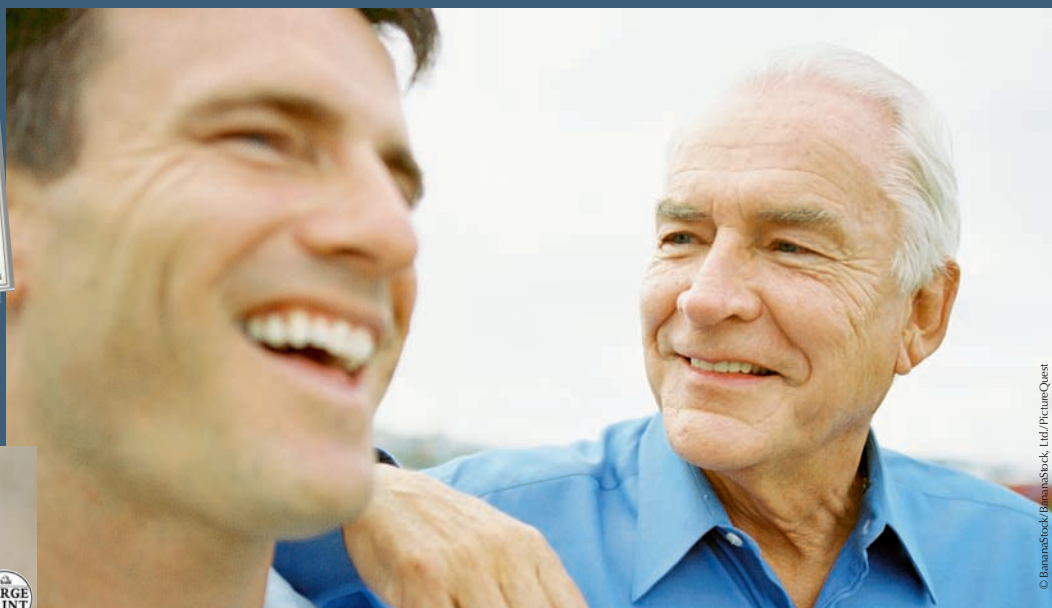
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## VERBATIM

"I don't see a difference between a chimpanzee and my 4½-year-old son (based on the fact that 98.7 percent of their respective DNA is the same)."

— STEVEN WISE

*promoting his book "Drawing the Line: Science and the Case for Animal Rights," at a Washington bookstore in June*

"Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

— JOHN ADAMS

*founding father, second president of the United States*

"I consider it injury to have government force dogma down the throats of little children."

— MICHAEL NEWDOW

*avowed atheist from Sacramento, Calif., speaking out of concern that his daughter's rights were violated because the words "under God" were recited in the Pledge of Allegiance at her school*

"So, Your Honor, the pledge is unconstitutional because it says 'under God.' Guess that means when you were sworn in with your hand on a Bible, and at the end of your oath you repeated 'So Help Me God,' that makes your job unconstitutional! Therefore you have no job, which means your ruling doesn't mean squat."

— DENNIS MILLER  
*comedian*

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS?

"They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist ..."

— GEN. JOHN SEDGWICK  
*Union commander, killed in combat in the Civil War, 1864*

# Koran reading requirement OK with ACLU

Last summer, when the University of North Carolina was sued for requiring incoming freshmen to read portions of the Koran and listen to a CD with an Arabic chant calling the faithful to prayer, the American Civil Liberties Union was deafeningly silent.

One ACLU attorney explained that compulsory religious assignments are acceptable at state universities as long as they are cast as "belief" and not "fact." Students were asked to write essays about their responses to the Koran excerpts – or explain why they would not.

In August, a federal appeals court refused to halt the program after four lawsuits by UNC students.

The ACLU's acquiescence did not escape notice on the editorial page of *The Wall Street Journal*, which noted that "the ACLU has found a religion it can tolerate ...



Corbis

It's hard to imagine the ACLU exhibiting the same large-mindedness toward a state university that demanded all freshmen to read the New Testament or the Torah and meditate on the teachings and liturgical music."

## (SELECTED) MURPHY'S MILITARY LAWS

1. Never share a foxhole with anyone braver than you are.
2. Friendly fire ain't.
3. The problem with taking the easy way out is that the enemy has already mined it.
4. Incoming fire has the right of way.
5. If your advance is going well, you are walking into an ambush.
6. The quartermaster has only two sizes: too large and too small.
7. The only time suppressive fire works is when it is used on abandoned positions.
8. The only thing more accurate than incoming enemy fire is incoming friendly fire.
9. There is nothing more satisfying than having someone take a shot at you and miss.
10. If your sergeant can see you, so can the enemy.

*Murphy's Laws and Corollaries Web site*



AP

## AND THE WIENER IS ...

**113** Pounds 24-year-old Takeru Kobayashi of Japan weighed at the beginning of the 2001 world hot-dog eating championships.

**50.5** Number of hot dogs he ate to win first place.

**129** Pounds he weighed at the end of the 12-minute competition.

## ALL POLITICS ASIDE ...

In a lunch with *The Washington Post* last summer, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle – a possible Democratic candidate for president in 2004 – assessed President George W. Bush's performance to date: "Almost on every one of the issues involving domestic policy, he has been a source of great disappointment. I think his record on the economy is a disaster. I think his position on education has fallen far short of expectations." Daschle also said the president had "failed to capture the ring-leaders of al-Qaida."

One more thing Daschle said at the lunch, according to *The Atlantic Monthly*: Bush is altogether too confrontational and political.





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his great generation. A generation of patriots, true heroes, real men.



Digging through dusty old boxes you find a life time of memories. An original pair of German field glasses, a Luger pistol (source unknown), Army ribbons, Uncle Fran's original Army hat from the photo above. And, an old tattered wallet with a 1935 series \$2 bill and four original black and white photos of "Unc" with his friends in the trenches of Germany. To say the least, it is difficult to sort through. It is in Uncle Fran's memory we have recreated the original wallet, and we have customized it with your choice of Military Insignia.



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# Hope for hearing-impaired

*Surgical implants result in less distortion.*

BY TARA PARKER-POPE

For more than a decade, retired Rear Adm. Allen Hill has hated his hearing aids. Although the Riverside, Calif., resident found the devices amplified conversation, he felt the sounds he was hearing – particularly those of his own voice – were unnatural.

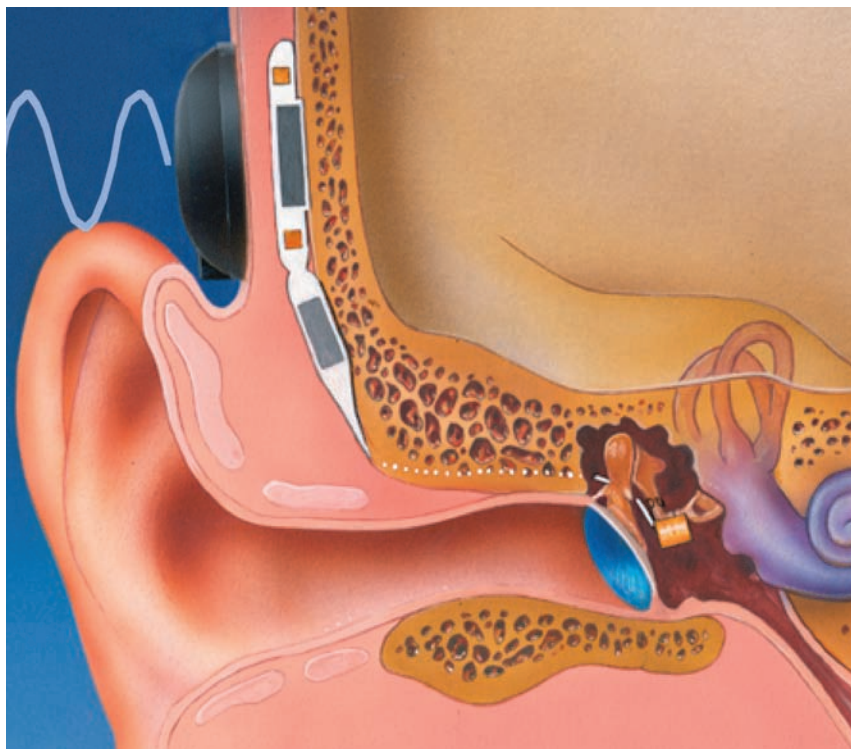
“I wound up almost every morning determining what my schedule would be and whether or not I’d really need to wear my hearing aids,” says Hill, 73.

Hill isn’t alone in his frustration. Although today’s hearing aids do help improve hearing, they also create so many annoyances that many people stop using them. Hearing aids can make users feel like their ears are plugged and that they’re talking in a tunnel. They can squeal, create feedback and pick up background noise.

New devices surgically implanted in the middle ear can help solve these problems. The implants don’t make a big difference in comprehension compared to hearing aids, but people who use them say the sound quality is vastly improved.

The FDA has approved two implants: the Vibrant Soundbridge from Symphonix of San Jose, Calif., and the Direct System from Soundtec of Oklahoma City. In the United States, about 400 patients have Soundtec implants. About 250 patients in the United States use the Symphonix device.

What prevents wider use is cost. The implants run between \$5,000 and \$15,000, including the implantation surgery, while the most expensive hearing aid costs about \$3,000. They are typically not covered by VA or health insurance. VA will pay for other types



Implants typically consist of a device in the middle ear and an external processor held by a magnet behind the ear or hooked around the back of the ear. *Symphonix Devices*

of hearing aids if the hearing loss was due to military service.

Like a hearing aid, an implant amplifies sound. But the process begins deep inside the ear, directly at the middle-ear bones. This more closely mimics the natural hearing process. And because the ear canal isn’t plugged, the sound isn’t distorted.

To insert the Symphonix device, which can cost \$15,000 or more, doctors drill a small hole behind the ear while the patient is under general anesthesia. A small processor sits behind the ear, held in place by a magnet.

Surgery for the Soundtec device, which costs about \$5,000, is less extensive. The patient is awake as doctors lift the eardrum and place the device in the middle ear. The processor hooks around the back of the ear.

Occasionally, a patient will complain of a feeling of heaviness in the ear and have the implant removed. Less-common complica-

tions include additional hearing loss, pain and altered taste, but these are rare.

After switching to a new audiologist, Hill learned of a study using the Vibrant Soundbridge implant and signed up. Two years ago he had the device surgically implanted. He says the implant has changed his life.

“I think it’s a minor miracle,” Hill says. “Everything changed. I heard very well immediately. I’ll never forget it.”

*Tara Parker-Pope is an author and health writer for The Wall Street Journal.*

*Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems. This article also is not intended to be, nor is it, an endorsement or advertisement for any product.*



# Too many veterans, too few dollars

*Veterans should be able to use Medicare benefits for VA care.*

BY SEN. JAY ROCKEFELLER

Over the past few years, thousands of mostly elderly veterans across the country have joined the VA health-care system, seeking quality health care and prescription drug coverage. This influx of veterans has strained VA programs, causing shortages in VA medical staff at hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. With resources stretched thin and an already tight budget, VA desperately needs every penny it can get – and urgently, as waiting times for appointments are often more than a year.

The fact is that VA health care does not have sufficient funding to meet current demand by veterans. To help relieve VA of its budget pressures, I am working on legislation to allow VA to receive Medicare reimbursements, which would increase VA's funds dramatically.

The May issue of *The American Legion Magazine* discussed "Medicare subvention" as a way for VA to bill Medicare, much in the same way that VA is now able to bill, collect and retain money from private insurance companies. Currently, VA is not authorized to bill Medicare and receive payment for health-care services, even though veterans have already paid into Medicare. I believe we should free up VA and allow for

Medicare billing as a way to reduce the budget constraints VA is currently facing.

Other federal agencies are, in fact, permitted to receive reimbursements from Medicare, and there is no reason VA should not be granted the same freedom to increase its funding. We have been encouraged by the success of other federal agencies like the Indian Health Service, which has received over \$100 million in reimbursements that have been added to its budget.

Tens of thousands of veterans across the nation have waited long enough. And I mean *waited* – in long lines for medication or in overcrowded waiting rooms at VA clinics.

*Other federal agencies are, in fact, permitted to receive reimbursements from Medicare, and there is no reason VA should not be granted the same freedom to increase its funding.*

This rationing of health-care services must stop. Veterans should not have to spend their retirement years waiting for the medical attention they need to stay alive. And worse, veterans should not have to worry if enough money will be left to care for them when they reach the front of the line.

One easy way to help this situation is to give VA flexibility to increase its budget by collecting reimbursements from Medicare. We must

remember that these brave men and women who risked their lives to defend this nation have paid into the Medicare system, and to turn our backs on them now when they need and deserve our help is shameful. It's time to deliver on the health-care promises we made to our veterans.

*Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., is chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.*

## Rehabilitation Advisory Committee members picked

Approximately 2.3 million veterans have medical problems connected to military service. VA offers a wide range of rehabilitative services to help them, including medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, and specialized employment and training programs.

The Veterans Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation advises VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi on the rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans, reviews VA programs designed to meet those needs and offers recommendations for improvements.

"This advisory committee, with the expertise of its new members, will help to ensure VA is providing the rehabilitative services that our veterans need," Principi said.

Principi recently appointed five new members to three-year terms on the committee: John King, acting director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Charlotte G. Dixon, chairperson of the Department of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling in Tampa, Fla.; Marvin L. Meyers, president of the United Veterans Committee of Colorado; Dr. Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, assistant director of George Washington University's Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program; and Barry A. Jesinoski, associate national service director for Disabled American Veterans in Washington.

Carroll L. Williams, a member of The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division in Washington, is a member of the committee. The committee's chairman is Chad Colley of New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

# Immunize for health

*A simple shot can protect you during flu season.*

BY DR. JAMES F. BURRIS

Many people consider the flu to be nothing more than a bad cold. However, each year the influenza virus is a major health threat in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the flu puts 114,000 Americans in the hospital each year. About 20,000 die. Most of them are older than 65.

You can avoid becoming one of those statistics simply by getting immunized. Although anyone can catch the flu at any time of year, the greatest threat occurs in the winter months when we spend more time indoors with other people. That means the best time to get a flu shot is October or November. The immune system needs 6 to 8 weeks to respond to the vaccine.

The flu can be particularly severe for those older than 50 or those with weakened immune systems, diabetes or chronic heart, lung or kidney disease. Anyone in these groups – and their family members – should be certain they are immunized. Regardless of your overall health, seeing your doctor for a flu shot may be a vital step toward keeping yourself healthy this winter.



Corbis StockMarket

More than 60 percent of senior citizens receive their flu shots at the doctor's office. Researchers at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center found that many doctors across the country do not take advantage of opportunities to offer flu vaccinations to patients making office visits for other types of health care. That means you may have to ask your doctor for a flu shot.

Another Minneapolis-based study found that routine immunization could save money as well as lives. Researchers determined that if everyone between the ages of 18 and 64 were vaccinated, the nation would be spared about \$13.66 per person – a total

of \$1.3 billion per year – in direct and indirect health-care expenses.

Some people worry that the flu shot could give them the flu rather than prevent it. That simply is not true. Although a small chance exists you could still catch the flu after being immunized, the symptoms will be less severe. Additionally, the flu shot can cause side effects such as muscle soreness at the vaccination site, low-grade fever and fatigue. Side effects may begin 6 to 12 hours after you get your shot and may last up to two days.

In short, there is really no good reason not to be immunized. If you won't be seeing your doctor soon, you may have other opportunities to get immunized. Flu shots are often available at health fairs, schools, clinics, senior centers and community events. Do what you can to stay healthy by getting a flu shot before winter arrives.

*James F. Burris, M.D., is acting chief research and development officer of the Veterans Health Administration.*

*Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.*

## What to do if you have the flu

It is easier to prevent the flu with a flu shot than to treat it once you show symptoms. However, if you haven't been immunized and think you may be facing a bout with the flu, you can at least reduce your suffering.

The first two days are critical for treatment, so be alert to symptoms manifested in early stages. The illness usually starts with a fever, headache, chills, a dry cough and minor aches. It progresses to extreme fatigue, combined with aches in the head and body, painful coughing and high fever.

These symptoms distinguish the flu from the common cold, which is usually limited to a sore throat, stuffy nose and

sneezing. The flu almost never causes symptoms in the stomach and intestines, disproving the existence of the so-called "stomach flu." Call your doctor if you have gastric symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. But these symptoms do not necessarily indicate flu.

If you think you may have the flu, call your primary-care physician as soon as possible. Your doctor can prescribe medication that will ease the effects of the illness. You also can buy a variety of over-the-counter medicines that will help. Along with this, follow the advice you have probably heard for years – simply rest in bed and drink plenty of fluids.



# VA sets new extended-care co-payments

Some veterans without service-related medical problems will be charged new co-payments for extended care, VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi recently announced. Co-payments will be individually calculated and based on ability to pay.

"VA was mandated by Congress in the Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act to initiate extended-care co-payments," Principi said. "However, we wanted to ensure that each veteran's situation was evaluated so that none suffered financial hardship."

The new co-payment is expected to affect between 2,000 and 3,000 veterans currently receiving VA extended care.

Veterans not required to make extended-care co-payments include those with any compensable service-connected disability, those whose incomes are below the VA single-pension level of \$9,556, and those receiving con-



tinuous VA extended care since Nov. 30, 1999, and earlier.

Currently, higher-income, nonservice-connected veterans pay \$5 per day, plus \$812 – the Medicare deductible – for each 90 days of nursing-home care.

Under the new regulations, veterans will get the first 21 days of care free in any 12-month period. After that, the maximum a veteran could pay is \$97 for each day of nursing-home care; \$15 for each

day of adult day health care; \$5 for each day of domiciliary care; \$97 for each day of institutional respite care; \$15 for each day of non-institutional respite care; \$97 for each day of institutional geriatric evaluation; and \$15 for each day of non-institutional geriatric evaluation.

Among the factors used to determine individualized co-payments are income, expenses, assets and a daily \$20 allowance. For example, a veteran will be allowed to keep enough money to pay the mortgage or rent on a home, land, farm or ranch; to pay for an automobile, education, utilities, taxes and insurance; plus a daily \$20 allowance each for the veteran and spouse. After the first 21 days of care, which are free, veterans will make predetermined, individual co-payments. These could vary from the maximum of \$97 a day to as little as \$97 a month, depending on the individual assets and expenses.

## VA appoints Chiropractic Advisory Committee

VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi recently announced the formation of a new Chiropractic Advisory Committee that will advise him on the chiropractic health programs run by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new committee will "provide direct assistance and advice to the secretary in the development and implementation of the chiropractic health program," according to Public Law 107-135, which created the panel.

The committee's goals are to advise the VA secretary on: protocols governing referrals to chiropractors, protocols governing direct access to chiropractic care, protocols governing the scope of practice for chiropractic practitioners, and definitions of services to be provided.

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# A Legion legend passes

*Past National Commander Daniel Foley's dedication never waned.*

Barely into his tenure as national commander of The American Legion, Daniel F. Foley of Minnesota received personal thanks from President John F. Kennedy for supporting a treaty to limit nuclear weapons testing. In the months that followed, Kennedy was assassinated, the landmark Civil Rights Act was signed, North Vietnamese PT boats torpedoed U.S. warships in the Gulf of Tonkin, and Congress gave nearly unanimous support "for all necessary action" to defend American personnel in Southeast Asia.

"Those were difficult days for our nation," said Past National Vice Commander Almo Sebastianelli, whose friendship with Foley spanned more than 40 years. "Dan Foley was the national commander at the right time for the history of the Legion and for the history of our country."

Foley – whose ascent to the Legion's highest office in 1963-64 was followed by four decades of continued, tireless service – passed away Aug. 17 at the age of 80. He and wife of two weeks, Jeane, were on their way to Charlotte, N.C., and the Legion's 84th National Convention. "His years and years of service to the organization after his term as national commander shows the dedication he had to The American Legion," Sebastianelli said. "Dan is greatly responsible for where the Legion was going then and where it is today."

A World War II Army sergeant



Hon. Daniel F. Foley served as national commander of The American Legion, 1963-1964. But his career of service continued for the rest of his life.

whose first wife, Ellen, served in the Women's Army Corps, Foley made a lifetime commitment to public service. After the war and a law degree from New York's Fordham University, Foley practiced in Wabasha and Rochester, Minn. His judicial career began in 1966, first as a district court judge and later as one of the six original judges in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, a position he held until 1991.

Judge Foley's legal expertise often proved beneficial in Legion issues. "He knew the Legion and all its legalities," Sebastianelli said. "He always took the floor of the convention when a legal issue came up, and everyone listened."

Foley's legal expertise was coupled with inherent even-handedness, said Past National Commander John Geiger, who in the mid-1950s established a lasting friendship with Foley. "He had a

very judicial attitude," Geiger said. "He would listen to you, learn and observe without jumping to conclusions. And he didn't walk away from issues. He stayed with them."

Such characteristics distinguished Foley on the bench. "What stands out about Dan's career is his fundamental fairness," Appeals Court Judge Harriet Lansing told the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*. "He was the kind of judge you hoped you'd get. He had a breadth of understanding about the law that we may not see again. He was not only a founding member of the (state appeals) court, but he was really the court's foundation."

Likewise, he helped form The American Legion's foundation in the second half of the 20th century. A 57-year member of Wabasha, Minn., Post 50, Foley held nearly two-dozen national and department-level offices beginning in the mid-1950s. He spent 30 years on the National Advisory Committee to the National Commander and was president of Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States (ANAVICUS).

"He was one of the great ones," said Past National Commander John "Jake" Comer, who knew Foley for nearly 40 years. "He was one of the backbones of the Legion, and he'll be sorely missed."

And he will be fondly remembered. Past National Commander Daniel Ludwig, who graduated from high school the year Foley served as national commander, knew him as a mentor. "He was a great patriot with a tremendous passion for freedom and democracy," Ludwig said. "And he was a man of impeccable integrity, unbelievable wisdom and high principles. We will be talking about Dan Foley for generations. We can just try to live up to the example he set." □



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# JROTC marches into new era

BY DENISE O'NEAL

They come from all walks of life. Each bucks the tide of peer pressure. They are high school students – 435,000 of them nationwide – enrolled in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The students earn academic grades and full-year credit in science, social science or physical education for their JROTC classes.

Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine JROTC programs foster self-confidence, self-discipline, leadership, motivation, self-control, personal responsibility, integrity, loyalty, dedication and self-esteem.

Statistically, these traits translate into better behavior in students, higher graduation rates and better school attendance. During the 1999-2000 school year, attendance rates for cadets averaged 2.5 percent better than those of the general high-school population. Cadet graduation rates exceeded those of other students by 5.2 percent.

Each branch designs a multi-year classroom curriculum taught by retired officers and non-commissioned officers. Each unit, regardless of affiliation, incorporates academics in military history, science and technology. Other topics include the importance of national security, leadership and resource management, physical training and healthy habits, military demeanor, and drill and uniform.

Outside the classroom, JROTC requires cadets to participate in community-service projects such as highway cleanup, recycling projects, visitation to aging veterans, cemetery refurbishment, memorial flag placements, and helping the handicapped and needy.

JROTC is one of the nation's oldest, largest public enterprises for youth development. But despite a successful history that dates back to 1916, JROTC is present in only 2,773 high schools – less than 15 percent nationwide. Funding has been a limiting factor, JROTC officials say, but the budget squeeze is loosening.



Air Force JROTC cadets from Ligonier Valley, Pa., School District line up for inspection during their annual marching competition. Members of local veterans organizations, including Ligonier American Legion Post 267, served as judges. *Courtesy Denise O'Neal*

Congress recently voted to expand JROTC to 3,500 units, which will increase enrollment to 500,000 by 2005. The Department of Defense funded a 4-year expansion and added \$14 million for fiscal 2001 to accelerate the program. DoD's total program cost in 2000 was \$211 million, or \$500 per student.

However, JROTC faces formidable obstacles. Foremost is instructor recruitment. A recent Pentagon release noted the need for an additional 1,200 retired military officers and NCOs over the next three years to teach JROTC.

Other challenges include geographical distribution and balanced military representation. The Northeast reflects spottier coverage than other areas. Nationwide, 600 schools were on waiting lists last year. But DoD aims for fair and equitable unit distribution.

JROTC also faces two major public misconceptions: first, that because students wear uniforms, they are committed to military service after high school or are already part of it; and second, that JROTC is a military-recruitment program.

While JROTC is not based on military recruitment, about 40 percent of JROTC two-year cadets end up with an enlistment, reserve or pre-commissioning military affiliation. In 1999, CSIS reported that, "For the armed forces, the importance of JROTC lies not in its effect on recruitment but in its role as a bridge between military and civil society in an era when these two elements tend to diverge. This does not mean that JROTC promotes some sort of militaristic anti-individualism. On the contrary, JROTC seeks to nurture individualism in the service of a common cause."

JROTC weaves U.S. military history, strategy and science into the fabric of America's future through the nation's youth. Cadets learn skills for success in school and life after graduation. Ultimately, JROTC links students to a heritage of honorable values that America cannot afford to lose.

*Denise O'Neal is a freelance writer from Ligonier, Pa., and the wife of a JROTC instructor.*



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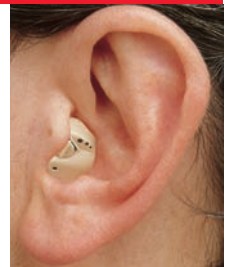


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## Legion urges vets to enroll in VA

The American Legion believes funding for the nation's largest category of veterans could be endangered if those veterans fail to enroll in the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system.

Priority Group 7 – VA's designation for non-indigent veterans without service-connected disabilities or injuries – need to enroll in the system lest Congress decide the funding no longer exists to accept them. By enrolling, veterans will have access to a health-care system that includes a pharmacy benefit with a \$7 co-payment for each 30-day supply of medication.

American Legion department service officers are available to help with the process. A complete list of department service officers can be found on the Web at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

When enrolling, Priority Group 7 veterans agree to make co-pay-

### How to enroll

- Enroll in person at any VA medical center or clinic.
- Mail or fax a completed Form 10-10EZ to the medical center or clinic of your choice.
- GETTING THE FORM**
- Visit, call or write any VA health-care facility or veterans' benefit office.
- Call (877) 222-8387 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.
- Enroll online by visiting the VA Web site [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

ments and identify their private health-insurance companies. It also is important to choose a specific VA health-care facility as a preferred facility to receive primary care. If a selected facility is unable to provide the health care needed by an enrolled veteran, then that facility will make

arrangements for referral to another VA health-care facility or to one of VA's private-sector affiliates to provide the required care.

Veterans not required to enroll in the system include:

- Those whose service-connected disabilities are rated at 50 percent or more.
- Those who were discharged from military service less than a year ago for a disability that the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty but not yet rated by VA; and
- Those seeking care from VA for a service-connected disability only, even if the rating is only 0 percent.

Veterans normally will remain enrolled in the system for one year. Enrollment will be reviewed and renewed each year depending upon priority-group assignment and available resources.

## Legion continues to fight for pledge

The American Legion filed a motion with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco July 30 to overturn the court's earlier decision that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional.

The Legion planned to file an Amicus Curiae – or friend-of-the-court – brief on or about Aug. 19, joining 50 state and territorial attorneys general and the U.S. Senate, among others.

"If the 9th Circuit's ruling is allowed to stand, millions of American schoolchildren will be denied the right to recite the pledge," National Commander Richard J. "Ric" Santos said. "The denial will exist simply because the phrase 'one nation under God' offends one atheist and two judges." The Legion was instrumental in

adding the phrase "under God" to the Pledge.

"If the judges had read the Declaration of Independence, this outrage would never have occurred," Santos said. "With its references to 'God,' the 'Creator' and 'divine Providence,' it is clear that our founding fathers did not intend for America to be an atheistic nation. More importantly, the 9th Circuit's decision contradicts the words uttered during the opening of each Supreme Court session: 'God save the United States and this honorable Court.'"

"As national commander of The American Legion, I promise that our organization will stand with the American people all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary, to correct this grave injustice."

### New e-mail service offered

Want to stay abreast of legislative issues and other information directly affecting veterans and their families? The American Legion now provides a Legion-related news service to its members via e-mail.

To sign up for the service, members must visit the Legion Web site at [www.register.legion.org](http://www.register.legion.org) to provide their e-mail addresses. When submitting an e-mail address, each member must include name and membership number as they appear on the membership card.

E-mail addresses will be used for official purposes only and will not be shared or sold to any other organization.



# Legion members save on prescriptions

With the cost of prescription drugs becoming the fastest-growing component of health insurance today, Legionnaires and their immediate families may wish to take advantage of a membership benefit that's been around for years. Since August 1995, Legion family members have saved more than \$23,527,177 using The American Legion Discount Prescription Program. Members and their families

## For more information

Call RxAmerica  
(800) 905-9818

are automatically enrolled in the program. To receive a prescription drug discount at any of the thousands of participating pharmacies across the country, members need only present a current membership card. Convenient mail service also is available when members wish to order 30- to 90-day supplies of their prescriptions.

Prescription discounts vary, ranging up to 83 percent depending on the medication, but average overall savings is about 17 percent. Members need to keep in mind, however, that the savings plan is prohibited when using a co-pay program, as pharmacies can only store one prescription program.

Members who currently have a co-pay program should stick with



it because it is the most cost-effective. However, if your insurance program mandates that you pay 100 percent of the cost of your medication and submit it for reim-

bursement under the provisions of the plan, you can still use The American Legion Discount Prescription Program to get a discount up front.

With rising prescription costs on everyone's mind, this benefit - offered to members at no cost - serves as a great recruitment tool.

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The American Legion also offers a Simplified Issue Term plan (that is ideal for younger members too!). This program is available to **American Legion and Sons of The American Legion** members and dependents. For a free information kit, call toll free **1-800-523-5758**.

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## One Network update

CVS pharmacies are no longer participating in The American Legion Discount Prescription Program. Legionnaires should ensure that fellow post members are made aware of this so they can continue to take advantage of discounts at other participating pharmacies around the country.

# American Legion unveils plaque marking birthplace of GI Bill

The American Legion recently unveiled a plaque in Washington marking the birthplace of the GI Bill of Rights. The plaque is in Room 570 of Washington's Mayflower Hotel, where on Dec. 15, 1943, American Legion Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kan., penned the first draft of the historic legislation.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the original GI Bill on June 22, 1944. The measure helped veterans buy homes, attend college and start businesses. It also gave rise to the American middle class and the suburbs.

"The GI Bill of Rights was the most significant domestic legislation of the 20th century," American Legion National Commander Richard J. Santos said. "A plaque marking its birthplace is an appropriate, lasting tribute to the organ-



Former Sen. Bob Dole recently joined a group of prominent Legionnaires in Washington to unveil a plaque marking the birthplace of the GI Bill. *Sandy Schaeffer*

ization and to the man who helped to make dreams come true for veterans and their families."

The plaque reads: "December

1943. Room 570. Harry W. Colmery, Past National Commander of The American Legion, worked tirelessly in this room drafting the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, 'The GI Bill.'"

Santos added, "I commend Chairman Chris Smith for introducing the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001, which the president signed in December. The measure raised the monthly GI educational benefit from \$672 to \$985 by October 2003."

American Legion National Adjutant Robert Spanogle was joined at the plaque unveiling by VA Secretary Anthony Principi, House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Chris Smith of New Jersey, House Veterans Affairs Benefits Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson of Idaho, Rep. Jim Ryun of Kansas, former Sen. Bob Dole, former House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sonny Montgomery, and Michael Bennett, author of "When Dreams Came True: The GI Bill and the Making of Modern America."

Reps. Simpson, Smith and Ryun have formally requested that President Bush posthumously honor Colmery with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom Award. The president has not yet acted upon the request.



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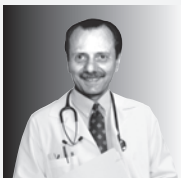
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## How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

**Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year.** Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other Notices

"In Search Of" is primarily a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as

well as a contact name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org). The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

## AIR FORCE

**8th Tact Ftr Wing 8th Ftr Grp**, Galveston, TX, 11/20-24, Frank Knight, (281) 488-4077, [martinails@aol.com](mailto:martinails@aol.com); **Webb AFB, All Units 1951-1977**, Big Spring, TX, 10/11-12, Jim Little, (915) 264-1999, [hangar25@crcom.net](mailto:hangar25@crcom.net)

## ARMY

**3187th Sig Serv Bn**, Peoria, IL, 10/10-12, Donald Goldman, (512) 446-0371, [dancintrees@text1.net](mailto:dancintrees@text1.net); **Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (SHGTUS)**, Fort Myer, VA, 11/8-11, Neale Hart, (703) 354-0829, [inhart@erols.com](mailto:inhart@erols.com)

## JOINT

**65th Gen Hosp of WWII (Duke Univ Unit)**, Durham, NC, 10/25-27, Ivan Brown, (863) 682-6647; **Iwo Jima Veterans & Family Assn**, Wichita Falls, TX, 2/19-23, Howard "Phil" Philips, (714) 990-2560, [howardphil@aol.com](mailto:howardphil@aol.com); **Nat'l Assn of Black Military Women**, Norfolk, VA, 10/9-13, Juanita Scott, (323) 290-0918, [jrscoetvp@yahoo.com](mailto:jrscoetvp@yahoo.com)

## MARINES

**9th Spec Basic Class 1951**, Triangle, VA, 10/24-26, Herb Hart, (703) 912-6124, [camphart1@aol.com](mailto:camphart1@aol.com); **USS Philippine Sea Mar Det, CV 47**, Hershey, PA, 10/15-20, Ralph Lund, (215) 345-6430, [ralpml@aol.com](mailto:ralpml@aol.com)

## NAVY

**MCB 6**, San Antonio, 2/28-3/4, John Bevier, (231) 839-2011, [jbevier@michweb.net](mailto:jbevier@michweb.net); **NAVCAD 8-53**, Pensacola, FL, 2/10-2/13, Ted Lukens, (215) 766-8724, [oldnavypilot@juno.com](mailto:oldnavypilot@juno.com); **USS Bingham, APA 225**, New Orleans, 11/13-16, Peter Xanthos, (716) 773-5852, [xanthosp@aol.com](mailto:xanthosp@aol.com); **USS Crux, AK 115**, WWII, Myrtle Beach, SC, 11/3-6, Wilton H. Price, (919) 365-5926; **USS George W. Ingram, DE 62**, Eastaboga, AL, 10/12-15, Jack Schlemmer, (937) 384-0323, [jschlemmer@graphtronics.net](mailto:jschlemmer@graphtronics.net); **USS Luzon, ARG 2**, Corpus Christi, TX, 11/14-18, Charles Mitchell, (845) 692-5760, [luzon@frontiernet.net](mailto:luzon@frontiernet.net); **USS Navarro, APA 215**, San Mateo, CA, 10/10-13, Ken Bell, (650) 341-1097, [cwobell@aol.com](mailto:cwobell@aol.com); **USS Radford, DD/DDE 446**, St. Louis, 10/3-6, Vane Scott, (740) 498-8803, [vane@saferinternet.com](mailto:vane@saferinternet.com); **USS Relief**, Sun City Center, FL, 10/5, Paul Bandler, (813) 633-9049, [pb80and@aol.com](mailto:pb80and@aol.com); **USS Semmes, DDG 18**, Charleston, SC, 12/7-10, Tom Camann, (716) 694-5424, [sanbaggr@aol.com](mailto:sanbaggr@aol.com); **USS Shields, DD 596**, Korea, San Diego, 10/17-20, A.D. Burchfield, (662) 289-4745, [adbshields@aol.com](mailto:adbshields@aol.com); **USS Threadfin, SS 410**, Las Vegas, 10/31-11/3, Charlie Callender,

(410) 965-6488, [charles.callender@ssa.gov](mailto:charles.callender@ssa.gov); **VP-28**, Las Vegas, 10/15-17, Jim Miller, (816) 761-8724, [patron28@aol.com](mailto:patron28@aol.com); **VS-831/VS-36 1951-1954**, Norfolk, VA, 10/11-14, John Meyer, (320) 252-8778

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

**Post 60, CA**: Richard A. Washington  
**Post 540, CA**: Frank W. Watts  
**Post 187, CT**: John H. Smith Jr.  
**Post 43, FL**: William Blagriff  
**Post 125, FL**: David Birdsall  
**Post 219, FL**: Donald W. Mann  
**Post 95, NJ**: Robert McCormick, Dennis J. Walker  
**Post 328, NJ**: William J. Duffy, Joseph Petrone, Michael Totin, William D. Wray  
**Post 469, OH**: William J. Nagy  
**Post 40, PA**: Clement E. Barsh  
**Post 525, PA**: Mark Gushanas  
**Post 17, WV**: Richard D. Bentel, Roderick A. Devison, Dominick J. Romino

## IN SEARCH OF

**1st AAA AW Bn**. Any Marines who served in a battery at Camp Pendleton, Calif., between 1951 and 1953, contact Bill Morgan, Box 298, Galloway, OH 43119, call (614) 878-6672 or e-mail [wcmorgan@att.net](mailto:wcmorgan@att.net).  
**1st Bn 65th Rgt 3rd Inf Div**. Anyone who served in Korea between November 1952 and April 1953, contact George Bjotvedt, 19700 N. 76th St., Unit 1050, Scottsdale, AZ 85255 or [gjbjotvedt@cox.net](mailto:gjbjotvedt@cox.net).  
**1st Inf Tank Div**. Any MPs who served in Göttingen, Germany, or Japan in 1945, contact Anita Foster at (229) 924-6422.  
**2nd AF 307th Bomb Wing Field Maint Sqdn**. Anyone who served on Okinawa in 1953, contact Loren G. Parker, 3285 175th St., Fort Madison, IA 52627 or call (319) 372-1393.  
**3rd Recruit Tng Bn**. Any Marines who served in a platoon at San Diego during the 1950s, contact Bill Morgan, Box 298, Galloway, OH 43119, call (614) 878-6672 or e-mail [wcmorgan@att.net](mailto:wcmorgan@att.net).  
**5th AF 386th Bomb Sqdn**. Anyone who served between January 1942 and October 1945, contact Andrew C. Johnson Jr., P.O. Box 113, Des Allemands, LA 70030 or call (985) 758-9866.  
**5th MP Bn**. Any Marines who served in Saipan between 1945 and 1946, contact Frank E. Bowman, 7381 Constitution Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33912, call (239) 466-7273 or e-mail [macfrank1944@yahoo.com](mailto:macfrank1944@yahoo.com).  
**16th AOD**. Anyone who served at Fort Bragg, N.C., and Echterningen Army Airfield, Germany, between January 1959 and September 1960, contact Thomas W. Senuta, 79 Fanning Road, Ledyard, CT 06339, call (860) 889-0654 or e-mail [twstrucks@msn.com](mailto:twstrucks@msn.com).

**19th Gen Hosp**. Anyone who served during WWII, contact Richard R. Powell, 1254 Silk Oak Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

**20th SOS "Green Hornets."** Anyone who served between 1965 and 1972, contact Robert Hall, 2552 Eidmann Road, Belleville, IL 62221, call (618) 566-4310 or e-mail [robert.hall@scott.af.mil](mailto:robert.hall@scott.af.mil).

**22nd Troop Carrier Sqdn**. Anyone who served at Tachicawa, Japan, between March 1952 and July 1954, contact Tom Switzer, 101 Humbolt St., Canyon City, OR 97820, call (541) 575-1678 or e-mail [tdswitzer@oregontrail.net](mailto:tdswitzer@oregontrail.net).

**27th and 28th Bns, 9th Tng Rgt**. Anyone who served in Camp Croft in Spartanburg, S.C., during WWII, contact Robin T. Zimmerman, 3429 Friar Tuck Road, Spartanburg, SC 29302 or call (864) 582-8733.

**47th Eng B Co**. Anyone who served on Makin Island, Saipan or Okinawa, contact Roy Kirchner, 320 N. 17th Court, Estherville, IA 51334 or call (712) 362-8052.

**59th Eng Const Co**. Anyone who served at Ladd AFB, Alaska, between 1953 and 1956, contact Charles Bettis, 6717 N.W. 128th Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73142.

**69th Armd 4th Inf Div**. Anyone who served in Vietnam between September 1967 and September 1968, contact Ronald Roy, 501 Cardinal Place, Midwest City, OK 73130 or e-mail [roy2@cox.net](mailto:roy2@cox.net).

**69th Div Arty HQ Btry**. Anyone who served in the Rhineland during the Central Europe campaign, contact George Walker Bowman, 3504 Rosendale Road, Schenectady, NY 12309, call (518) 785-5277 or e-mail [bowmang29@aol.com](mailto:bowmang29@aol.com).

**70th AAA Bn**. Anyone who served in New Caledonia between March 1942 and January 1943, contact Donald Backe, 703 E. Main St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or call (765) 362-6448.

**72nd Periodic Maint Sqdn, 72nd Bomb Wing**. Anyone who served between June 1953 and June 1956, contact Bob Ruttman at (225) 774-9743 or e-mail [bobpolski@aol.com](mailto:bobpolski@aol.com).

**98th A&E/A5 Sec**. Anyone who served at Lincoln AFB, Neb., between 1957 and 1965, contact Ralph Hartzell, 311 Old Airport Road, Douglassville, PA 19518, call (610) 385-3587 or e-mail [ralphjam01@aol.com](mailto:ralphjam01@aol.com).

**98th Depot Repair**. Anyone who served at the USAAF field in Blythe, Calif., in summer 1943, contact H.E. Harvey, R.R. 1, Box 259, Clarksville, AR 72830.

**125th Air Traffic Cont Co**. Anyone who served in Saigon, Song Be, Pleiku and Kontum between October 1967 and September 1969, contact Mike Isabelle, 152 Bishop Drive, Framingham, MA 01702, call (508) 626-2732 or e-mail [mjbell1@rcn.com](mailto:mjbell1@rcn.com).



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**133rd Rgt 34th Div.** Anyone who served in Italy between 1944 and 1945, contact Bruce Brady, 31 Lake Shore Drive, Limerick, ME 04048.

**189th Sig Repair Co.** Anyone who served in Europe during WWII, contact James E. Ferriero, 246 High St., North Arlington, NJ 07031 or call (201) 991-6599.

**202nd MP Co.** Anyone who served at NATO Site 4 or at the Pendleton Barracks in Giessen, West Germany, between March 1983 and January 1985, contact Michael Fink, P.O. Box 305, Tyrone, PA 16686.

**212th MP Co.** Anyone who served at Camp Darby, Italy, between 1960 and 1963, contact Bob Sullivan, 33 Kolbe Road, Bloomingburg, NY 12721, call (845) 386-9339 or e-mail rd@warwick.net.

**226th Sig Corps Serv.** Anyone who served in South Korea between August 1953 and July 1954, contact Wanda Hensley Ninichuck, 3142 Ninichuck Road, Bethel, OH 45106 or e-mail wninichuck@hotmail.com.

**267th FA Bn.** Anyone who served between March 1943 and December 1945, contact Woody Shadid, 2109 Keokuk Drive, Springfield, IL 62702, call (217) 528-3096 or e-mail criswood29@aol.com.

**314th FMS.** Anyone who served with the "Dirty Dozen" at Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, between October 1968 and March 1970, contact Darrell A. Fortune, P.O. Box 103, Jones, OK 73049 or call (405) 399-4636.

**385th Port Bn 670th Port Co Persian Gulf Cmd.** Anyone who served in 1943 and 1944, contact Lloyd F. Henderson, 315 Five Forks Road, Simpsonville, SC 29681, call (864) 288-3847 or e-mail lloyd4281@charter.net.

**523rd MP Co.** Anyone who served at the Edgewood Arsenal or the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., between May 1981 and March 1983, contact Michael Fink, P.O. Box 305, Tyrone, PA 16686.

**572nd MP Co.** Anyone who served at Fort Ritchie, Md., between 1968 and 1971, contact Ed Crager, 308 N. Grant St., Waynesboro, PA 17268, call (717) 762-2283 or e-mail kcrager@supernet.com.

**597th AAA AW Bn (Mobile).** Anyone who served at Fort Bliss, Texas, or Salzburg, Austria, during WWII, contact R.E. Erts, 5019 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132, call (402) 556-5625 or e-mail rerts@hotmail.com.

**606th AAA Gun Bn.** Anyone who served at Grand Island, N.Y., between October 1955 and July 1957, contact Jerry L. Phillips, 244 Marla Ave., Jackson, MS 39204 or call (601) 372-5166.

**642nd Bomb Sqdn 409th Bomb Grp.** Anyone who served in France between October 1944 and February 1945, contact James L. Presson, 41 Norwood Circle, Iowa City, IA 52245 or call (319) 338-0937.

**667th, 932nd, 933rd and 934th AC&W Sqdns.** Anyone who served in Iceland, contact William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036, call (803) 932-9596 or e-mail littlechick@msn.com.

**691st AF Band.** Anyone who served at Erlangen, Germany, between 1945 and 1947, contact Ralph Watts, 67 Brookside Ave., Hershey, PA 17033, call (717) 732-7601 or e-mail wattsgold@aol.com.

**728th Amph Tract Bn.** Anyone who served in the Pacific, contact Elmer Hallen, 1161 Stark St., Kewaskum, WI 53040, call (262) 626-2253 or e-mail betel@juno.com.

**843rd Eng Avn Bn B Co SCARWAF.** Anyone who served at Chaumont AFB, France, between 1954 and 1955, contact Bobby James, 13330 Laraway Drive, Riverview, FL 33569, call (813) 677-5742 or e-mail bobjames13330@aol.com.

**1095th SRS/ADG.** Anyone who served at Bossier Base, La., between 1955 and 1968, contact Al

Cota, HCR #1, Box 1597-N, Tucson, AZ 85736 or e-mail swp1095th@aol.com.

**1288th Eng Bn HHC and HS Co, APO N.Y.** Anyone who served between February 1942 and November 1946, contact Charles Thoe, P.O. Box 574, Texico, NM 88135.

**3097th Avn Depot Sqdn.** Anyone who served at Stony Brook AF Station, Mass., between 1955 and 1960, contact Clarke Ketter, 3244 Carriage Lane, Lexington, KY 40517, call (859) 273-2259 or e-mail crketter@insightbb.com.

**4683rd AF Hosp.** Anyone who served at Thule AB, Greenland, between February 1963 and February 1964, contact Charles Meador, 898 Highway 133, Columbia, LA 71418, call (318) 649-5335 or e-mail meador@3g.quik.com.

**7405th Support Sqdn.** Anyone who served in Wiesbaden, Germany, between 1961 and 1964, contact Ben "Moe" Mazenkas, 1011 Washington St., Abington, MA 02351, call (781) 871-0791 or e-mail bh44bandit@aol.com.

**7559th Aircraft Repair Sqdn.** Anyone who served at Burtonwood AFB, England, between 1953 and 1956, contact Howard D. Hoke, P.O. Box 39, Mount Upton, NY 13809 or call (607) 764-8419.

**A Btry 60th Coast Arty.** Anyone who served in the Philippine Islands between March 1941 and October 1942, contact Clark Casetta, 307 S. Lafayette St., Shawano, WI 54166 or call (715) 526-3590.

**B Co 67th Armd Rgt 2nd Armd Div, "Hell on Wheels."** Anyone who served in North Africa, England, France, Belgium, Germany and Holland between 1942 and 1945, contact Nelson Lee Goss, 216 Olive Ave., New Albany, IN 47150 or call (812) 944-0152.

**B-26 Tow Outfit/Target.** Anyone who served in Tonaph, Nev., and Chico, Calif., between 1944 and 1945, contact Lester E. Wills, P.O. Box 45, Cantril, IA 52542 or call (319) 397-2359.

**C Co 843rd Eng Avn Bn SCARWAF.** Anyone who served in France and Germany between 1953 and 1954, contact A. Paldino, 16 Madison Court, Manalapan, NJ 07726 or call (732) 863-6631.

**C Co 862nd Eng.** Anyone who served in Erding, Germany, between 1945 and 1948, contact Edward "Red" Murphy, 2 Crystal Lane, Paterson, NJ 07501, call (973) 523-3836 or e-mail redmurphysr@aol.com.

**Carrier Div 22.** Anyone who served in the South Pacific between July 1944 and August 1945, contact Patrick M. Driscoll, P.O. Box 272, Lake Alfred, FL 33850 or call (863) 956-9575.

**CASU (F) 11.** Anyone who served on Okinawa between August 1945 and December 1945, contact Richard Engstrom, P.O. Box 1274, Lake Placid, FL 33862 or call (863) 465-0572.

**Co 591.** Anyone who served at Great Lakes, Ill., in July 1942, contact Wayne K. Thompson, 5330 Keel Way, Ft. Pierce, FL 34949 or call (772) 461-2566.

**Co U Sig Tng Rgt.** Anyone who served at Fort Monmouth, N.J., in July 1947, contact Al Maggard, P.O. Box 1014, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602, call (970) 945-8311 or e-mail almag@rof.net.

**Commander Carrier Div 27.** Anyone who served in the South Pacific between July 1944 and August 1945, contact Patrick M. Driscoll, P.O. Box 272, Lake Alfred, FL 33850 or call (863) 956-9575.

**Commander Serv Divs 10 and 101.** Anyone who served on the Marshall or Philippine Islands between 1944 and 1946, contact A.R. Lombardo, 3158 E. Flamingo Road #204, Las Vegas, NV 89121 or call (702) 431-7740.

**E Co 7th Rgt 3rd Inf Div.** Anyone who served in North Korea in December 1950, contact William H. Lawall Jr., 604 Grape St., Whitehall, PA 18052, call (610) 264-8202 or e-mail jtlawall@aol.com.

**Flights 89 and 90.** Anyone who went through basic

training at Sampson AFB in Geneva, N.Y., between March 1951 and May 1951, contact Anthony L. Mirando, 2078 Pine St., Baldwin, NY 11510.

**Fight 1083.** Anyone who went through basic training at Sampson AFB in Romulus, N.Y., between November 1951 and February 1952, contact Carroll Corns, 73 Trine St., Canal Winchester, OH 43110, call (614) 837-8919 or e-mail cccorns@yahoo.com.

**H&S Co 5th Mar 1st Prov Mar Bde 1st Mar Div.** Anyone who served in Korea between 1950 and 1951, contact Paul Hall, 34 Stahlman Place, Kingston, NY 12401 or call (845) 338-1913 or e-mail paulh103@hotmail.com.

**KMAG Corp.** Anyone who served at Op 14 in Kriano, Korea, between January 1949 and February 1949, contact Lonnie Bazor, 32630 Happy Lane, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 or call (707) 964-8923.

**MCB 8.** Anyone who served in Da Nang or Hue-Phu Bai, Vietnam, between September 1965 and May 1966, contact Ralph Cole, 9 Allen St., Presque Isle, ME 04769 or call (207) 764-8533.

**Med Det, 124th Inf.** Any doctors who served at Fort Benning, Ga., in 1942, contact Herbert A. Thurston, 250 S. Sykes Creek Parkway #205, Merritt Island, FL 32952 or call (321) 453-4475.

**Naval Torpedo Station.** Anyone who served in Keyport, Wash., between 1943 and 1945, contact Stanley Walker at (406) 453-8077 or e-mail wohler@msn.com.

**NAVCAD 8-53.** Anyone who served at NAS Pensacola, Fla., contact Ted Lukens at (215) 766-8724 or e-mail oldnavypilot@juno.com.

**Ohio Mar Corps Reserves.** Any Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif., who were activated in September 1950, contact Bill Morgan, Box 298, Galloway, OH 43119, call (614) 878-6672 or e-mail wcmorgan@att.net.

**Operation Hula.** Anyone who participated during WWII, contact Donald C. Wait, 1300 Michigan Ave. #22, Iron Mountain, MI 49801.

**Sampson Naval Hosp.** Anyone who served as a hospital corpsman in New York in 1946, contact Don Dean, Cherry Tree Lane, Wabash, IN 46992.

**Task Force 593-1, LZ English.** Anyone who served in Vietnam between 1968 and 1969, contact Larry Sorrentino, 11108 Hartsook St., North Hollywood, CA 91601, call (818) 763-2766 or e-mail ljsorr@adelphia.net.

**USAHS Louis A. Milne.** Anyone who served aboard during WWII, contact Ray Lau, 40114 Route 78 North, Stockton, IL 61085 or call (815) 947-2724.

**U.S. Army Test Board #3.** Anyone who served at Ft. Benning, Ga., between October 1950 and October 1952, contact Richard L. Posey at (601) 743-5340 or e-mail yoohoodenise@yahoo.com.

**U.S. Navy Armed Guard.** Anyone, including gun crew or communications personnel, who served aboard the SS *Edwin L. Drake* between August 1943 and July 1944, contact Donald H. Stormo, Box 310, Monticello, MS 39654, call (601) 587-2269 or e-mail badwxx@telepak.net.

**U.S. Navy Hosp 128 PHTH.** Anyone who served as a staff hospital corpsman, contact Arthur Senter, 15 Hawthorne St., Rockland, MA 02370.

**USS Bradley, DE/FF 1041.** Anyone who served aboard while commissioned, contact Bruce L. Gottsch, 20 Crambrook Road, New City, NY 10956, call (845) 634-3993 or e-mail bgottsch@optonline.net.

**USS Buchanan, DDG 14.** Anyone who served aboard with the commissioning crew in Bremerton, Wash., or San Diego between 1961 and 1965, contact George Mezorzi at (502) 231-5081 or e-mail shirley63@mindspring.com.

**USS Elizabeth C. Stanton, AP 69.** Anyone who served aboard between 1942 and 1944, contact Charles Glover, 105 N. Douglas Corner Drive, Starkville, MS 39759 or call (662) 323-6155.

**USS Knudson, APD 101.** Anyone who served aboard in the Pacific between 1944 and



December 1957, contact Wayne J. Reynolds, 1981 Tilburg Ave., Deltona, FL 32725, call (386) 789-8612 or e-mail [wjreynolds@mpinet.net](mailto:wjreynolds@mpinet.net).

**USS LCI 588.** Anyone who served aboard between 1943 and 1945, contact P.M. Patterson, 8400 Hood Drive, Richmond, VA 23227, call (804) 264-1138 or e-mail [michael1518@netzero.net](mailto:michael1518@netzero.net).

**USS Liddle, APD 60.** Anyone who served aboard between October 1954 and 1957, contact P.M. Patterson, 8400 Hood Drive, Richmond, VA 23227, call (804) 264-1138 or e-mail [michael1518@netzero.net](mailto:michael1518@netzero.net).

**USS LSMR 401.** Anyone who served aboard between 1951 and 1952, contact Joseph Samulowicz, 21417 Evergreen St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48082 or call (586) 293-7476.

**USS LST 1082.** Anyone who served aboard between September 1950 and December 1954, contact John Lemaster, 1531 20th N.E., Miami, OK 74354, call (918) 542-9612 or e-mail [jonbobbye@datainkok.com](mailto:jonbobbye@datainkok.com).

**USS Onslow, AVP 48.** Anyone who served aboard in 1956, contact John M. Knoll, 10716 7th St. N.E., Blaine, MN 55434, call (736) 757-2477 or e-mail [kbOul@juno.com](mailto:kbOul@juno.com).

**USS Pender County, LST 1080.** Anyone who served aboard between 1955 and 1958, contact Gerald Pete King, 3277 Carriage Lane, Lexington, KY 40517 or e-mail [gking40517@aol.com](mailto:gking40517@aol.com).

**USS Platte, AO 24.** Anyone who served aboard, contact Al Baker at (650) 926-4849 or e-mail [awb@slac.stanford.edu](mailto:awb@slac.stanford.edu).

**USS Rolette, AKA 99.** Anyone who served aboard between May and December 1945, contact Herman Rosenberg, 48177 McKay Creek Road, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 or call (541) 443-3373.

**USS Salvager, ARS(D) 3.** Anyone who served aboard between 1946 and 1965, contact Bob McArdle, 906 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031 or e-mail [hullbd1@iowatelecom.net](mailto:hullbd1@iowatelecom.net).

**USS Sitkoh Bay, CVE 86.** Anyone who served aboard between April 1945 and August 1946, contact Leon Eller, 1106 Woodvale Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066, call (615) 452-8277 or e-mail [birdfeeder4u2@aol.com](mailto:birdfeeder4u2@aol.com).

**USS Snatch, ARS 27.** Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact James N. Smith, 34 Wolfe Drive, McGehee, AR 71654, call (870) 222-4359 or e-mail [jamesinmcgehee@webtv.net](mailto:jamesinmcgehee@webtv.net).

**USS St. Mary's, APA 126.** Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact Tony

Calco at (330) 688-8179 or e-mail [buckitoo@aol.com](mailto:buckitoo@aol.com).

**USS Tarawa, CV 40.** Anyone who served with Carrier Air Grp 1, Composite Sqdn 10, in 1948, contact Bob Pomponi, R.D. 12, Box 448, Greensburg, PA 15601 or call (724) 837-2284.

**USS Tazewell, APA 209.** Anyone who served aboard between 1944 and 1946, contact H. Neal Hellman, 102 Cardinal Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95409 or e-mail [nealmou@aol.com](mailto:nealmou@aol.com).

**USS Vermillion, AKA 107.** Anyone who served aboard between 1945 and 1946, contact Jack E. Cumbie, 1011 Morehead Ave. S.E., Roanoke, VA 24013 or call (540) 342-0933.

**USS Wabash, AOG 4.** Anyone who served aboard between August 1945 and August 1946, contact Webb "Dutch" Van Dokkumburg, 441 River Bend Road, Cleveland, GA 30528, call (706) 348-1685 or e-mail [vwandok@yahoo.com](mailto:vwandok@yahoo.com).

**USS YMS 62.** Anyone who served aboard the minesweeper in 1943 and 1944, contact James A. Reed, 806 Bright Road, Apt. 805, Findlay, OH 45840.

**USS YMS 96.** Anyone who served aboard between 1942 and 1946, contact Herb Banta, 1609 Ohio St., Apt. 1, Terre Haute, IN 47807, call (812) 232-8091 or e-mail [glenn.banta@verizon.net](mailto:glenn.banta@verizon.net).

**VB-153.** Anyone who served in Oceana, Va., in summer 1945, contact William Kay Angle, 3432 Knoup Road, Dakota, IL 61018 or call (815) 449-2493.

**VMF-311 MCAS El Toro.** Anyone who served in Santa Ana, Calif., between May 1948 and May 1950, contact Andy Anderson, 4439 N. Romero Road, Tucson, AZ 85705 or e-mail [swede1@mymailstation.com](mailto:swede1@mymailstation.com).

**VP-18.** Anyone who served at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla., between 1955 and 1956, contact Leo Wilhelm at [elmerlylnch@aol.com](mailto:elmerlylnch@aol.com).

**VP-49.** Anyone who served in Bermuda between 1952 and 1955, contact Ken Nyland at (608) 527-2264 or e-mail [avcmkn@tds.net](mailto:avcmkn@tds.net).

**VP-84.** Anyone who served between 1941 and 1943, contact Myrill Cox, 3006 Ontario Road, Keysville, VA 23947, call (434) 736-0333 or e-mail [mcox@hovac.com](mailto:mcox@hovac.com).

**VR-7, VR-8.** Anyone who served at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, in 1954 and 1955, contact Bill Ketcherside, 1107 Tyler Ave., Warrensburg, MO 64093, call (660) 747-8987 or e-mail [bilketch@iland.net](mailto:bilketch@iland.net).

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**J. Frank Ray, Dept. of North Carolina.** Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1964-1965, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1965-1984, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1975-1984, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1986-1989, Dept. Cmdr. 1989-1990 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1990-1994.

**Clifford E. Stoddard, Dept. of Nebraska.** Nat'l Defense Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 1992-1998, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1998-1999 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1999-2002.

**John P. Swift, Dept. of Massachusetts.** Nat'l Sec. Training Cmte. Memb. 1951-1954, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1955-1956 and 1980-1984, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957 and 1966-1976, Dept. Cmdr. 1957-1958, Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1957-1958, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1957-1959, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1958-1959, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1960-1967, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1975-1976 and 1983-1986, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1977-1980, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1986-2001 and Nat'l Constitution & By-Laws Cmte. Memb. 2001-2002.

**Edward J. White, Dept. of Nevada.** Nat'l Child Welfare Cmsn. Advisory Memb. 1960-1962, Dept. Cmdr. 1989-1990 and Nat'l Cmsn. on Children & Youth Region 7 Memb. 1990-1992.

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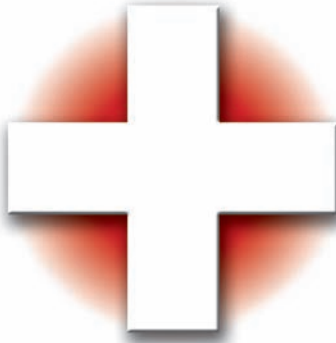


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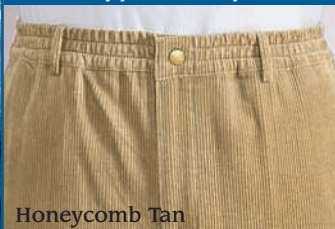
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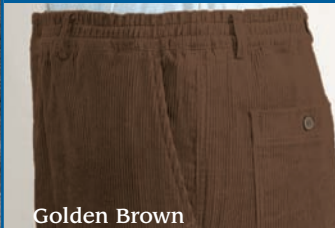
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2 Button-Close Back Pockets!



Golden Brown

Belt Loops too,  
including Center Back!



Atlantic Blue

Imported

## S-T-R-E-T-C-H WAIST

Wear them with a belt or without;  
you'll love the comfort!

This plush 8-wale cotton/polyester Corduroy is just right for crispy, cold days/ And it's 100% NO-IRON machine wash & dry easy care too.

### Plus you get:

- Full elastic waist AND belt loops
- Front zipper AND snap closure
- **NO IRON** wash & wear
- 2 deep front pockets
- Inside coin pocket
- 2 button-close rear pockets

### 5 FAVORITE COLORS:

Choose Atlantic Blue, Honeycomb Tan, Rust, Golden Brown or Charcoal. Just be sure to order now!

*Haband!*

Duke Habernickel, Pres.  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Peckville, PA 18452

**CORDUROY JOES** 2 pairs for **29<sup>99</sup>\***  
3 for 42.65 4 for 55.25 5 for 67.25

### Haband

1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Peckville, PA 18452

Send \_\_\_\_\_ slacks.

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_

purchase price plus

\$3.95 toward postage.

GA residents add sales tax

- ☐ Check ☐ Visa  
☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx  
☐ Discover/NOVUS®

Waist Sizes: 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44

\*Big Men (just \$4 more per pair):  
46 48 50 52 54 56 58 60

Inseams: S(27-28) M(29-30) L(31-32) XL(33-34)



**7EL-0A0**

WHAT  
WAIST?

WHAT  
INSEAM?

HOW  
MANY?

GW	Golden Brown		
UC	Honeycomb Tan		
8W	Atlantic Blue		
KD	Rust		
07	Charcoal		

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

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City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of Purchase Price at Any Time!

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visit us at  
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Charcoal

Rust

Charcoal

Golden  
Brown

Atlantic  
Blue

Honeycomb  
Tan